Bank of Saipan launches video series 'Dollars & Sense' PAGE 2
Gaming committee OKs oversight probe into IPI. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

75¢

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With all the board of trustees present, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute held its first board meeting at the NMTI campus in Lower Base yesterday, with NMTI chair Mario Valentino, fourth from right, leading the meeting.

JUSTINE NAUTA

# NMTI to name new interim CEO

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute continues with its transition, with the board of trustees appointing a new interim chief executive officer by the end of this week.

As of March 8, it was learned that there is no current CEO for the technical school, but there have been three nominees for the position.

Board of trustee secretary Irene Holl nominated Jodina Attao at the first NMTI board of trustees meeting yesterday at the NMTI campus in Lower Base. Attao is currently with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Attao has a master's degree in education from Framingham State University through the Northern Marianas College. A master's degree is needed for the CEO position. Attao was not present at

See NMTI on Page 4

# Man caught illegally dumping trash in viral video

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was allegedly caught illegally dumping multiple garbage bags in Koblerville in a video clip that was shared on social media and quickly went viral this past weekend.

The man who took the video explained to those watching that he and his wife were just returning home from a nearby church, when they saw the male individual, initially thinking he was helping clean up the area. Shortly after, it became apparent to them that he was actually littering. The man's face, vehicle license plate, and trash bags were all caught on video. The man was then reported by a community

See MAN on Page 4

# PH Consulate to hold consular mission

Over a year since its last consular outreach, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam will once again hold a consular mission on Saipan, this time from March 18 to April 11, at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

The consular mission, which will be held in coordination with Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago, will be held from 8:30am to 4pm.

Biometrics and personal data capture for ePassport applications will be done according to the schedule prepared by the Philippine Honorary Consulate on Saipan. All ePassport applicants are reminded to check the list by contacting the follow-

See PH on Page 4

# One more positive case

## AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, March 8, 2021

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 7,749 | 2 | 7,751 |
| Recovered | 7,590 | 5 | 7,595 |
| Active | 21 | 2 | 23 |
| Deaths | 133 | 0 | 133 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 130,727 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 145 | 1 | 146 |
| Traced via Travel Screening | 119 | 1 | 120 |
| Traced via Community Screening | 26 | 0 | 26 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 26,131* |
| Days since last community transmission | | | 202 |

**VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI**

| Saipan: | Tinian: | Rota: |
|---|---|---|
| Dose 1: 10,522 | Dose 1: 662 | Dose 1: 745 |
| Dose 2: 7,993 | Dose 2: 138 | Dose 2: 345 |

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## » Age threshold for vaccination down to 50 years old

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw its first back-to-back positive COVID-19 case yesterday when the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced that one more per-

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## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

**LEGEND:**
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

*Source: Office of the Governor*

## INSIDE

**BUSINESS**
Night Scent Restaurant across Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan has reopened.

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**NATION**
Activists who gathered virtually and in person to commemorate a pivotal day in the civil rights struggle.

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**LIFE & STYLE**
Harry and Meghan describe painful palace discussions In a wide-ranging interview.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

# Bayani Association donates solar street lights

Residents of the Bajao tribe resettlement area in Bugo in Cagayan de Oro, the Philippines show the five solar street lights that the Bayani Association donated.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bayani Association on Saipan installed five solar street lights at the Bajao tribe resettlement area in Bugo in Cagayan de Oro, the Philippines. The project is intended to provide safety and lights to a remote area that's inaccessible to the power supply from the Cagayan de Oro Power Light Co.

Bayani volunteers presented the solar street lamps to the tribal families, during which four families also received solar lights for household use, mosquito nets, and a sleeping mat. Another three families received care packages, including 10 kilos of rice, soy sauce, cooking oil, canned goods, noodles, laundry and bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste, sugar, and coffee.

Bayani volunteers also completed the repair of the restroom at the resettlement area. Recently, the group provided the tribal families with care packages, including kitchen equipment and roofing materials.

"We are thankful to the Bayani Association for providing us the street lightings," one Badjao tribe leader said. "It's a dream come true. …It is now safe to walk at night."

Association president Annamae Adaza credited RMR, A.J. Camacho, Johney Yamson, and Napoleon Balingit for donating financial assistance to make the project a reality.

The Bayani Association is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the United Filipino Organization. ***(PR)***

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
AQUA RESORT CLUB
New Year Staycation
PACKAGES
LOCAL Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Early Check-In 10am & Late Check-Out 5pm
$140.00 per room, per night
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Early Check-In (10am) & Late Check-Out (5pm)
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$250.00 per room, per night
DINE & RELAX Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Dinner or Brunch for 2 at Kevin's or Costa
Early Check-In 10am & Late Check-Out 5pm
$180.00 per room, per night
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Dinner or Brunch for 2 at Kevin's or Costa
Early Check-In 10am & Late Check-Out 5pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$290.00 per room, per night
LARGE FAMILY Staycation PACKAGE (Accommodates 8 Guests!)
Only $320.00 per package per night
Two Adjoining Deluxe Large Garden View
Accommodates Eight (8) Guests
Two (2) Connected Deluxe Large Garden View Rooms for One (1) Night Stay
Complimentary Early Check-In (10am) | Complimentary Late Check-Out (5pm)
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay | 20% Off all Dinner Set Menus at Kevin's
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ARC
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Saipan
*Mandatory 15% Gov. Tax will be added to total room charges
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with other specials or promos
*All benefits may be used during stay duration times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
Gift Certificates Available!
Gift an Overnight Staycation, Spa Massage, Sunday Brunch, Dinner Buffet, Aqua Café Goodies & more!

# Bank of Saipan launches video series 'Dollars & Sense'

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bank of Saipan has launched a new financial literacy video series titled, "Dollars & Sense, a Guide to Personal Finance and Banking for Ages 7 to 107" that aims to teach the basics of personal finance for all ages.

The premiere of the first episode of the video series took place last Saturday at the new Bank of Saipan office on Beach Road, along with the introduction of the cast and crew members behind the project.

Episode one, titled "Introduction to Money Matters!" introduced the characters Koku, a fourth-grade boy played by voice actor Tahekide "TJ" Naputi; Kaya, a 13-year-old girl in the eighth grade and is Koku's first-cousin, played by voice actress Teihawny Villagomez; and Nana, Koku's and Kaya's grandmother, who is a retired accountant, played by voice actress Daisy Villagomez-Bier.

The video touched on the correct use of credit cards, the importance of knowing where your money is coming from, and how to prevent yourself from spending money that isn't available.

When asked about what they've learned from being part of the project, Naputi and Villagomez said they learned the importance of budgeting money and how to save it.

Laura Kyonka, a mental health specialist at the Public School System; Daisy Villagomez-Bier, program manager at the Community Guidance Center, and Koniko Nakazato, who is pursuing her master's degree in special education and mathematics at Walden University and is also a U.S. Army veteran, are the team of educators that provided the expertise in developing the lessons that were taught in this first video. In all succeeding videos, they will continue to help formulate the lessons so that it could be received and understood by the targeted audience and will devise the most effective way to deliver the lessons. They wrote the script, envisioned the learning situations, created the characters, and chose the talents.

Behind the scenes, the technical support crew consisted of MG Muzik Productions who helped with the sound production; and Glimpses of Guam, Inc. who rendered the video production, illustration, animation, and editing.

The first episode of Bank of Saipan's ongoing financial literacy video series can be viewed on Bank of Saipan's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFY81FdlXu9p5rcKYamszcQ).

# NMTI students: Caught in the crossfire

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Facebook post last Thursday that said the Northern Marianas Technical Institute has shut down quickly went viral in the Commonwealth, prompting a lot of concern among NMTI students, who were suddenly faced with the specter of an uncertain future.

Speaking during the public comments portion of NMTI's board meeting yesterday, NMTI adult vocational high school trades/high school teacher Maureen Sebangiol said it's been emotional ride for many students since last Thursday when the news was posted on Facebook.

"I was in the position on Thursday evening of having to look at their faces and tell them that classes were dismissed until further notice, and that I simply did not have information to give them [but] as soon as I did, I would be in contact [with them]," said Sebangiol.

She said her students confided in her that they were feeling emotional because they were being impacted by the transition of the privately-operated Northern Marianas Trades Institute into the government-run Northern Marianas Technical Institute and that this has made them think that "their future is uncertain."

"The students I'm interacting with mostly are students that are not successful the first time they went to high school, so they found a pathway where they can earn their high school credits while they're learning their trade," said Sebangiol. She said that there is no other way to achieve those two goals—earning a trades certificate and high school diploma—on this island other than through NMTI.

"The shorter we can keep the interval where they're not in the classroom would definitely be where we want to go and if there's anything that I can do to assist that, I'm more than happy to do that," said Sebangiol.

She said her concern is that she doesn't have any information coming from the board of trustees to be able to tell her students what's going on.

According to Sebangiol, NMTI had expected 50% of their students to return to school when classes resumed, yet 85% returned.

NMTI board chair Mario Valentino said he was equally shocked to hear that the institute suddenly shut down. "We

See NMTI on Next Page

## Fire at U Luck Poker

Yesterday, March 8, 2021, at 3:54pm, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services 911 received a call about a fire behind the Pugua store in Gualo Rai.

At 3:57pm, Rescue-1 and Medic-1 from the Susupe Fire Station, Engine-2 and Medic-2 from the Garapan Fire Station and Engine-5 from the Kagman station were dispatched to the location. Once on scene, Medic-2 personnel confirmed the fire was a structure fire at U Luck Poker. The first unit arrived on scene at 4:01pm.

All occupants had evacuated from U Luck Poker. No persons were injured and no treatment was provided at the scene for medical complaints related to the fire.

Fire was reported under control al 4:I3pm.

Preliminary scene investigation by the Division of Arson Investigation revealed the point of origin was located outside on the eastern side of the building. The fire had started from the generator and spread into the storage room of the establishment,

The cause of the fire is still undetermined and being processed by the Division of Arson Investigation. ***(PR)***

# CCC in talks with Finance Secretary Atalig to set up its own bank account

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom has informed the CCC board that they are currently in talks with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to set up CCC's own bank account.

CCC is now transitioning itself to setting up its own bank accounts, cashier, payroll, human resources, procurement regulations, and other administrative matters, after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed into law last January a measure that enhances CCC's powers.

Yeom said that, as he had earlier indicated, they inked a memorandum of understanding with Atalig for the CNMI Department of Finance to continue processing payroll and procurements for CCC until CCC is systematically ready and have the funding be transferred into CCC's account.

He said they submitted with the Office of the Attorney General a legal services request to obtain an official legal opinion/clarity on establishing a separate bank account, but have not heard any answers.

Yeom believes they should just go ahead and follow Public Law 21-38 that requires CCC to establish a separate bank account to manage its own finances, including payroll.

To this end, Yeom said, they need Atalig's help to make this happen by transferring a certain amount, perhaps $500,000, to set up CCC's own bank account.

Public Law 21-38 clarifies CCC's regulatory oversight of the Saipan casino industry.

Yeom earlier stated that in terms of payroll setup, they are targeting to have the software and the system ready to go by mid-March 2021.

With respect to procurement regulations promulgation, Yeom said they are working to have them ready for the board's approval at the meeting next month.

He said the amount of funding for CCC still remains to be discussed and decided with Atalig.

Under the new law, Public Law 21-38, CCC, and not the Finance secretary shall establish and maintain a CCC regulatory fee fund to be kept separate and apart from the general fund of the government.

The new law provides that, as an autonomous agency, CCC shall determine its staffing levels for full-time, part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees.

The new law also gives, among other things, CCC the authority to issue a casino license.

# OVR to temporarily stop external meetings this March through April

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will not be able to attend any external meetings with partners in March and April 2021 due to work on various federal grant requirements.

Due to the upcoming submissions of the Internal Controls and the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Reports that are mandated by OVR's grantor agency, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the OVR staff has prioritized these matters in order to maintain compliance, as well as address the large increase of consumer cases in the office.

For any urgent matters, contact executive director Maryann Borja-Arriola at (670) 287-6609 and/or email maryann@ovrgov.net for any concerns or inquires. ***(PR)***

# Gov. Torres: It's time to have National Guard

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday that he will make a priority the establishment of a U.S. National Guard in the CNMI. The National Guard is part of the reserve components of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

Speaking at a radio news briefing, Torres said he realized the importance of having a National Guard in the CNMI during this COVID-19 pandemic as almost all the states and Guam have National Guard units.

He believes only the CNMI and American Samoa don't have National Guard units and the CNMI was disenfranchised when the directive came out to activate one during pandemic. Nevertheless, Torres said, the CNMI worked through it because it has good community and leadership from the COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

He disclosed that he met last Friday with Maj. Gen. Brian Neal, who has been handling the National Guard.

The governor said he wrote a letter a couple of years ago to the National Guard, making a request to create one in the CNMI whether it be Air National Guard or Army National Guard.

"I think it's time for us to really make that a priority as a government, as a community. We're seeing the divert airfield project on Tinian. We're seeing the [U.S.] Department of Defense partnership in strengthening here in the CNMI and understanding that our role in the Pacific plays a national security," he said.

Torres

Torres said he is not asking for a huge National Guard unit, but something to start, whether it be 20 or 30 individuals. "But at this point, I want to emphasize that we do need a National Guard here in the CNMI," he said.

Torres cited the CNMI's experience during super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, and Typhoon Mangkhut, in which the Commonwealth was able to get some help from Guam and Hawaii National Guards.

"So I hope that in the next few months, we'll have more update on the National Guard. …I would like to make that a priority for the administration," he said.

Torres said that based on his conversations with Neal, he feels they understand the importance of the National Guard here.

"It's looking very positive. They support the movement of having a National Guard. And I've emphasized this partnership about DOD," he said.

Torres said it's not just humanitarian issue, but if any issues on the side of the world arises, the CNMI should able to assist and have its own protection, and as well as to help the defense in any way that the Commonwealth can.

# Law firm requests for hearing with IPI

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A law firm that is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for breach of contract has requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to set a hearing to examine IPI's ability to pay.

Cong Nie, who represents the law firm of Banes Horey Berman and Miller LLC, said the court had entered a money judgment in the amount of $114,311.38 against IPI last Feb. 10, 2021. To date, IPI has not paid any amount to satisfy the judgment.

The law firm, which sued IPI for breach of contract last September 2020 with the U.S District Court for the NMI, has now filed a request that the court set a hearing to examine IPI's ability to pay and to issue an order in aid of judgement.

According to the filing, before a money judgment is satisfied in full, a party "may apply to the court for an order in aid of judgment," and the court "shall hold a hearing on the question of the debtor's ability to pay." The court will also determine the fastest manner in which IPI can reasonably pay the judgment based on the finding.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the law firm represented IPI in the civil lawsuit filed by Pacific Rim Land Development LLC and in the defamation lawsuit filed by USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. It also represented IPI in filing a complaint against FSM Recycling Corp. relating to theft of construction materials at the IPI warehouses.

# 2020 Tax Forms now available online

The Department of Finance, Division of Revenue & Taxation would like to notify the public that the 2020 versions of the following forms are available now online at www.dof.gov.mp/forms:

### Annual tax forms for individuals

- 2020 1040-CM - Filing 1040CM
- 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet
- 2020 1040-CM-S1 - Filing 1040 Schedule 1CM
- 2020 1040-ETC - Filing 1040 Schedule ETC
- 2020 1040-WSD - Filing 1040 Schedule WSD
- 2020 i1040-CM - Supplemental Instructions for Filing 1040CM
- 2020 i3405 - Instructions for OS-3405
- 2020 i1040 - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1040 Instructions
- 2020 1040NMI - Filing 1040NMI
- 2020 i1040NMI - Supplemental Instructions for Filing 1040NMI
- 2020 1040NR-CM - CNMI Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return

### Annual tax forms for businesses

- 2020 OS-3710- Annual Reconciliation of Taxes Withheld
- 2020 W-2CM - Wage and Tax Statement
- 2020 W-2GCM - Certain Gambling Winnings Statement
- 2020 1120CM - Corporate Income Tax Return
- 2020 1120F - CNMI Income Tax Return for Foreign Corporation
- 2020 1120S - Corporate Income Tax S CORP
- 2020 1065-CM - Allocation for Partnership

Taxpayers are encouraged to use the fillable forms to print and submit income tax returns to DRT by the filing deadline of April 15, 2021, for those with a filing requirement. Printed 1040-CM forms will be available in limited quantities to individual taxpayers by March 9.

Taxpayers who are entitled to additional stimulus funds not yet received must complete the 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit Worksheet to calculate the correct amount of the remaining benefit and attach to their return.

Individuals who received a 1099-G for Unemployment Compensation (i.e., Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) are reminded to report this taxable income on their tax return.

Taxpayers should also be aware of potential online phishing scams inviting taxpayers to "e-file" on their website for a fee. There is currently no legitimate service for online income tax filing for CNMI taxpayers. Income tax forms must be submitted to the DRT Dandan location to be processed. ***(PR)***

## ONE

*From Page 1*

son tested positive for COVID-19, raising the CNMI's total to 146.

Speaking at the governor's media briefing, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said they have also expanded the vaccination eligibility in the CNMI to include persons 50 years or older. Tinian's COVID-19 phase 1B has also expanded to 50 years old or older and CNMI infrastructure workers for public and private sectors.

As for the new positive case, CHCC said the individual was identified through travel screening and confirmed positive through testing upon arrival. The individual has been safely in quarantine and was moved to the designated isolation area at the Kanoa Resort Alternative Care Site for close monitoring.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed case, including passengers on the same flight.

Out of the 146 total COVID-19 cases, CHCC said 120 were identified through travel screening while 26 were local transmissions. Of the 120 identified by travel screening, 75 are from the U.S. mainland, 32 from a U.S. territory, and 13 from a foreign country. There are currently seven persons in isolation and the CNMI has had no local transmission for the past 202 days.

Muña said there has been a slight increase in the number of vaccinations for the 65-years-old and older group. She added that CHCC will be doing more outreaches on how to get the vaccines out to the vulnerable population.

As of March 8, a total of 8,476 people in the CNMI (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) have completed the vaccination series. A total of 11,922 people has received their first COVID-19 dose.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the CNMI was allocated 13,360 doses—9,360 of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines and 4,000 Moderna Inc. vaccines—last Friday.

## PH

*From Page 1*

ing numbers: (670) 7893624; (670) 7893625; (670) 7893626; (670) 7893627; and (670) 7893628.

Due to the current health protocols being implemented on Saipan, the following shall be observed and implemented:

- Only applicants who have secured their appointment will be allowed at the venue, no escort(s), except for persons with disabilities and minor applicants;
- Applicants are advised to show up at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule;
- Wearing of mask and physical distancing will be strictly observed; and
- Passport applicants should wear proper attire (i.e., shirts with collar and sleeves) for data capture purposes.

For consular services, including passport renewal, that require civil registration documents (e.g. birth certificate and marriage certificate), only documents from the Philippines Statistics Authority or its predecessor, National Statistics Office, will be accepted,

Filipino nationals must keep their passports current as it is a required document for the work contracts. The Philippine Consulate General in Guam held its last consular mission on Saipan last March 5, 2020. ***(PR)***

## NMTI

*From Page 1*

the meeting to accept the nomination, but board of trustee chair Mario Valentino put her nomination on record.

The other nominees are from board members Richard Kautz, who nominated former CEO Agnes McPhetres to continue. The third nominee is a woman from Guam whose name was not mentioned.

All board members agreed that the nominees should submit their résumé in 24 hours so that the trustees will have one day to review them. After that, the board of trustee members should have a final decision by this Friday.

It was learned at the board meeting that because NMTI currently doesn't have a budget, they weren't able to discuss employees and contracts. As for now, the board of trustees are focusing on appointing a new CEO and will discuss employees and contracts as soon as they get the budget for it.

Additionally, addressing a viral post that said NMTI is shutting down, it was clarified at the meeting that NMTI is not being shut down, but is being restructured into a "technical institute," so the term "trades institute" is being retired.

## MAN

*From Page 1*

member to the authorities.

Members of the CNMI Department of Public Safety arrived at the location to clean up the illegally thrown garbage, which were found hidden among the tall grass, which could also be seen in the viral video.

Following the incident, the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Adviser issued a statement to reiterate the idea of a universal garbage collection system in the CNMI as a means to prevent further illegal dumping.

"Illegal dumping and littering are serious community issues. This incident is one of many that has prompted the GCEA to explore the concept of universal garbage collection for the CNMI. We believe that an established program with ongoing education and enforcement of the anti-littering law will help about a positive resolution to these issues," the statement says.

"As fellow residents, we encourage everyone to dispose of their garbage properly. As seen in our Public Private Partnership program, it is important to work together as a community to improve our island and protect our natural resources. Let's remember that this is our home, and we should take pride in keeping it clean."

The Public Private Partnership program of the GCEA means the CNMI government working with private sector groups to clean up and maintain adopted sites in the CNMI.

## NMTI

*From Page 3*

were equally shocked. I think what happened is that there was a communication that the trade school was shutting down but not the technical, so we were caught off guard as well," said Valentino.

Valentino, along with board trustees Catherine Attao and Rick Kautz, met with some of the NMTI staff and instructors last Friday to address the false information, reiterating that NMTI is not closing down and that the goal for everyone involved is to move forward as a public technical institute.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Valentino provided an overview of the transition process for employees and staff last Friday.

# 'US House passes measure with protections for CNMI voters'

The U.S. House of Representatives passed election legislation last Wednesday with protections for Marianas voters that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he has been working on since 2010 when he introduced H.R. 6381.

That bill, which Sablan had introduced in September 2010, seeks to clarify the application of certain federal laws relating to elections to the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The bill was subsequently referred in December 2010 to the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that the House-passed legislation, H.R. 1, includes his language extending to the Marianas federal prohibitions against manipulation of elections processes by public officials, against aliens voting, and against intimidation, threats, or coercion of voters. Penalties includes fines and imprisonment. Rep. John P. Sarbanes (D-Maryland) introduced H.R. 1 last January.

Sablan said H.R. 1 also creates a new Congressional Task Force on Voting Rights of United States Citizen Residents of Territories of the U.S. to look at how the lack of right to vote for President and to have full representation in the U.S. Congress harms the economy and society in the insular areas and to recommend how these voting rights can be extended to all.

"To make it easier to vote, H.R. 1 makes registration automatic, unless declined, for students and persons using Medicaid and other federal programs; and the bill provides funding to state and territory governments to cover this cost." ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

# Santos says new changes to CHCC policies will burden Rota patients

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is urging Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña to defer the implementation of recent changes to policies that, according to the senator, will only saddle Rota patients with additional financial and emotional burdens.

Santos wrote Muña last Thursday, asking the CEO to reconsider the policies involving non-emergency intra-CNMI referral and about patient cost-sharing until such time that the CNMI can identify a steady and reliable funding source for their patients.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Muña.

Santos said a paragraph of the purpose section in CHCC's non-emergency intra-CNMI referral policies states, "Intra-CNMI medical travel assistance for patients of the CHCC is designed to help patients overcome the access disparities caused by geography." The purpose section further states that "Intra-CNMI medical travel assistance is not intended to bestow upon…Rota residents a benefit which is not available to the residents of Saipan…"

Santos said that while the stated intended goal of overcoming access disparities imposed by Rota's geographical location is laudable, she takes issue with the second sentence of the policy, which asserts that Rota residents have somehow been enjoying a benefit otherwise unavailable to Saipan residents.

She said the second sentence contradicts the stated objective of the first sentence by ignoring the main reason why this benefit applies to Rota residents and not to the Saipan residents—overcoming access disparities imposed by geography.

Santos said everyone is aware that Rota Health Center does not have the same professional staff, medical services, medical equipment and other things, that is comparable to that of the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan. Therefore patients from Rota must be referred to Saipan to avail of those services that are already available to Saipan residents, she said.

"Should the RHC be at par with [CHC], our patients will no longer need to travel to Saipan to seek medical care," she said.

On the patient cost-sharing policy, Santos said it states that "the CHCC may elect to reduce or waive patient or escort cost-sharing responsibilities for referral assistance from… Rota to Saipan during a State of Public Health Emergency as declared by the governor pursuant to CNMI Law."

The senator said that, in her view, the language of the policy to justify the reduction or waiver of patient or escort cost-sharing should be absolute rather than discretionary. Instead of saying "The CHCC may elect…," she suggests revising the language by using the word "shall" and not "may elect to reduce or."

She said this is not the right time to implement such provisions of the policy for these compelling reasons.

For one thing, the senator said, the COVID-19 pandemic is still wreaking economic havoc in the lives of Rota residents. "Many are still suffering from either being furloughed or have been terminated from their jobs, coupled with the eminent possibility of another reduction-in-force if our coffers do not improve in the near future," she said.

Santos said many Rota residents are experiencing difficulty feeding their families without imposing additional medical financial burdens on them.

She said Rota's geographic location also means that shipment of goods to Rota cost a lot more than goods on Saipan and thus the cost of living is extremely high.

The senator added that many families are still trying to recover from the devastating economic effects of the typhoons that have ravaged the islands.

Santos also noted that the local law that created a medical stipend for people receiving medical treatment on Saipan has been abruptly ceased. "This cripples the delegation's ability to help our people seek the medical services that are not available on Rota," Santos said. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

# UOG kicks off month of virtual activities for Charter Day fete

The Marianas community is invited to join the University of Guam in celebrating its 53rd Annual Charter Day, starting with a virtual ceremony from 9am to 10am today. The celebration will continue throughout March as Charter Month, showcasing the university's work through various virtual events under the theme "Transforming Lives, Advancing Communities."

The annual Charter Day celebration marks the anniversary of the university's founding in 1952 and the signing of the charter that renamed the Territorial College of Guam to the University of Guam in 1968.

The event is generally a campus-wide festival, drawing more than 6,000 people to explore educational exhibits and displays and to participate in campus tours and cultural and academic competitions.

This year's event will feature various online lectures and presentations, webinars, exhibits, a virtual 5K, and a virtual tour of the Science Learning Center throughout the month.

Community members can register for the virtual ceremony and find a complete schedule of events at www.uog.edu/charterday. ***(PR)***

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## NOTICE TO ADJACENT LANDOWNERS ALONG CHALAN TUN HERMAN PAN (AIRPORT ROAD, ROUTE 35)

**CRM APPLICATION NO: SMS-2000-X-142-A1**
**PROJECT: ROUTE 35 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CHALAN TUN HERMAN PAN - AIRPORT ROAD)**
**APPLICANT: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to improve 4,100 feet of Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan/Airport Road) in Dandan, Saipan beginning from the intersection of Isa Drive and Route 35 (identified as Station 4+00) to the intersection of Exploring Drive and Route 34 (Station 45+00). The Route 35 Improvement Project is intended to eliminate hazards on the roadway and improve drainage. The proposed improvements would involve reconstruction of the existing roadway and upgrading of the pavement structure which includes excavation, backfilling of sub-base and base courses, asphaltic concrete pavement, dense graded anti-skid pavement, pavement markings, permanent traffic signs, driveway connections and connection to drainage chambers.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2003, a Major Siting Permit (Coastal Permit No. SMS-2000-X-142) was issued to DPW for the construction and surface improvements of approximately 7,100 feet of two lanes (12 to 18 feet wide) with class II bike lanes (4 to 8 feet wide), and drainage improvements for Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan/Airport Road) Improvement Project in Dandan, Saipan. This permit authorized the construction beginning from Station 45+00 to 79+00 as indicated in the permit application and plans, except that repairs and resurfacing may be completed between Stations 2+00 and 45+00.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary
Department of Public Works

# 10% of FSM's adult population now fully vaccinated, says govt

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei**—As of Thursday last week, 10% of the adult population of the Federated States of Micronesia has received their second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which translates into 14% of the nation's minimum 70% target.

Yap has vaccinated 38% of its adult population with the first dose of the vaccine, and 25% with the second dose.

Chuuk has vaccinated 13% of its adult population with the first dose of the vaccine, and 6% with the second dose.

Pohnpei has vaccinated 18% of its adult population with the first dose of the vaccine, and 9% with the second dose.

Kosrae has vaccinated 29% of its population with the first dose of the vaccine, and 10% with the second dose.

All adults aged 18 and up are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The U.S. government has informed FSM that it can soon expect to increase its stockpiles of not only the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine but also the vaccine produced by Johnson & Johnson. The FSM government intends for the Moderna vaccine to cover the nation's larger main islands as the Moderna vaccine is shipped in a solid state and, once it becomes liquid, must be used quickly. By contrast, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine—which is shipped in a liquid state—will be used to vaccinate the remote atolls in Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei.

"The good news is that we are making progress," said FSM President David W. Panuelo in a statement. "The bad news is that the progress we are making, as a nation, is too slow. I applaud the efficiency of the State of Yap, which—if it were judged as a separate jurisdiction—has a higher vaccination rate than [Palau and the Marshall Islands]. …I call on… Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae to follow Yap's example, and to expedite their delivery of the vaccine to as many communities as possible." ***(PR)***

# CGC teaches Dandan students about mental health

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center recently linked up with Dandan Middle School's Youth Advisory Panel to spread awareness about healthy coping strategies, suicide prevention, and general knowledge about maintaining one's mental health.

The presentation, which was held last Monday, March 1, featured CGC's Mia Jones, Lei Iguel, and Elora Masga sharing information on behavioral health topics that are a concern among students.

These efforts were conducted in preparation for the Youth Advisory Panel's school-wide two-day workshop, which will be led by the student leaders.

Part of the presentation included an introduction on suicide prevention and a discussion on prevention strategies and referral services. The students also worked on goal-setting and identified healthy coping strategies.

They also participated in a presentation about depression and anxiety, as well as the difference between healthy and unhealthy coping. Both topics were paired with engaging activities that taught the students about signs and symptoms, risk and protective factors, and ways to get help. They then had a question-and-answer segment, followed by guidance on how to convey what they learned during the two-day workshop that is scheduled next month.

The Dandan Middle School's Youth Advisory Panel consists of eight student leaders and three AmeriCorps students. ***(Neil Fama)***

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# Gaming committee OKs oversight probe into IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) raised this question after the chairperson of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's parent company in Hong Kong and its executives on Saipan claimed they are not in charge of IPI's operations on the islands.

At the House of Representatives Committee on Gaming meeting last week, Sablan, who is the committee's vice chair, said that IPI executives here on island have always pointed to Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. in Hong Kong as being the real decision maker and driver of funding for the company, yet Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited board chair Cui Li Jie later stated under oath that she has no responsibilities, no duties, and nothing to do with IPI's operations on Saipan.

Cui was recently cited for contempt of court and ordered by the federal court to pay sanctions for failing to appear at a deposition and failing to answer questions truthfully.

Sablan said last week that nobody seems to know who the CNMI is dealing with at IPI. "Not the [Commonwealth] Casino Commission, not the administration, not the Legislature," Sablan said.

That begs the question, Sablan said: Is IPI even a legitimate business?

The other question, she said, is why should this government and the people of the CNMI continue to accommodate a "bad actor" that is failing in virtually every respect, in terms of governance, compliance, and financial suitability.

"Why should we change our laws or the license yet again, after so much bad faith, so much non-compliance, so many people in small businesses harmed, so many black eyes?" she asked. "How do we disentangle ourselves from this mess, uphold our laws and restore the Commonwealth's credibility as a stable place to invest and do business?"

In line with this, Sablan moved to open an oversight investigation into the governance, financial suitability, and compliance failures affecting IPI. The committee later unanimously agreed to conduct the oversight investigation.

Sablan cited a Feb. 9, 2021, letter that IPI chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul sent the Legislature that presents the company's wish list of changes to the law and the exclusive casino license. On that wish list, she said, is a Senate bill that would, among other things, remove the Commonwealth Casino Commission's authority to regulate the non-gaming portions of the casino license. In other words, Sablan said, IPI wants the Legislature to remove government oversight over what IPI promised would be a $7-billion integrated casino resort development.

She noted that the Legislature just passed a law barely two months ago to strengthen government oversight and the enforcement authority of CCC.

Sablan said IPI also wants yet another extension on the completion of the Garapan casino/resort project, extending it to five years from today. She said IPI was supposed to finish the project by last month and actually was supposed to finish several years ago. Sablan now doubts how IPI can complete the project at all, with no manpower plan and now that they are barred from the H2-B program and possibly the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program as well.

The lawmaker said that when IPI got its last extension, it promised to pay $20 million into the community benefit fund annually. Yet only a few months ago, Sablan said, the Commonwealth Lottery Commission granted IPI a break on the community benefit fund.

She said IPI is also seeking relief from its obligations to pay the annual license fee and regulatory fee in full. Sablan said both are now long overdue—the license fee was due in August last year; the regulatory fee in October 2020. She said IPI has not paid even a penny, though, according to Yumul's letter and according to IPI's previous CEO, Donald Browne, IPI has had access to some funding all along to pay at least some of those fees. She said IPI has chosen not to do so.

"But if we change the law and reduce the fees, then they will pay a fraction of what they are legally and contractually obligated to pay right now. What a show of bad faith," Sablan said.

Sablan said she has observed IPI closely these past almost seven years, to include the casino fact-finding trips to Hong Kong and Macau that certain members of the Legislature, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, took back in 2013 prior to passage of the Saipan Casino Act. She said they now know that the trips were funded by a company linked to IPI.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### SINMI sets meeting on Thursday

In celebration of CNMI Women's Month, the Soroptimist of the Northern Mariana Islands is hosting a program meeting on Thursday, March 11, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant, starting at 11:30am. The cost is $25 and includes lunch.

The Soroptimist program meeting will feature another nonprofit to learn more about their mission and how the two organizations can support one another. This meeting will feature Susan Satur, executive director of the Center for Living Independently.

To reserve a seat, contact Donna Krum at 783-1900. ***(PR)***

### Guam PTAC hosts free webinar on federal contracting

Join the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center every Thursday as we show you how to get one of the Small Business Administration's official, small business certifications!

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ March 11 – How to get 8(a) Certified – The SBA's 8(a) Program was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal procurement market. The Guam PTAC will guide you through the 8(a) requirements and online application.

■ March 18 – How to get Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certified – WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss eligibility requirements, supporting documents, and the new, online application.

■ March 25 – SBA Mentor-Protégé Program – The SBA's All Small Business Mentor-Protégé program is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Register on our website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

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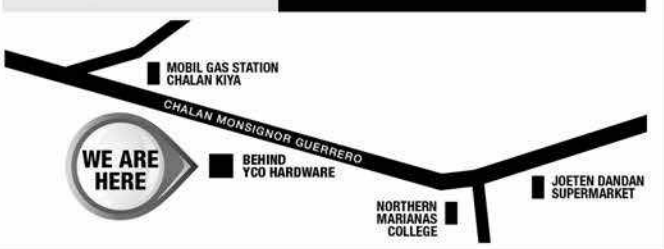


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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# The COVID relief bill: Imperfect, but essential

In the eyes of its critics, President Joe Biden's $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill is too big and too wasteful. They say that the flood of federal dollars will cause inflation to spike, discourage idled people from working and bail out overly generous public employee pension systems in states run by Democrats.

Some of the critiques are knee-jerk responses with little grounding in reality. Several of the state governments facing the biggest budget crunches are led by Republicans. And federal employment data don't indicate that workers are malingering on the dole; instead, the country is still suffering from extensive job losses, particularly in service industries, with new claims for unemployment remaining far higher than they were pre-pandemic.

Nevertheless, it's reasonable to wonder whether we still need such a big dose of fiscal medicine at this stage in the country's battle with COVID-19. Infection rates have plummeted from the last surge's peak, the pace of vaccinations is increasing and more businesses and classrooms are reopening. Economists say that once the pandemic is finally behind us, there will be an explosion of pent-up demand for travel, entertainment and many other services many Americans have denied themselves over the last year.

But while there's light shining at the end of the tunnel, we don't know how long it will take to reach it. That's why it's so important to renew the extended unemployment benefits that have kept millions of jobless Americans afloat, while also enabling them to pay their bills. They're due to run out in mid-March, so lawmakers don't have the luxury of time. This bill would do that.

The proposal's new round of stimulus checks will help more people pay down the debts they've run up during the pandemic, while encouraging others to support the local businesses that have struggled under COVID-related restrictions. Its aid to state and local governments will help restore thousands of jobs and hours cut over the last year.

Much of the bill is devoted to accelerating the recovery from the pandemic, for example by improving vaccine distribution and funding the new equipment and staff schools need to reopen safely. Other portions aim to make health insurance more affordable to everyone not covered by an employer's plan and help the low-income families hit hardest by the disease and the recession.

Yes, Washington has already borrowed a staggering amount of money to try to navigate us through the pandemic. And yes, there is a risk that the new bill will pump more money into the economy than it can use productively, spurring a temporary increase in inflation. But there's a greater risk that the recession's effects will linger for years, especially for low- and moderate-income Americans, if we take no action now. Let's make one more push to get out of the pandemic and get back to work.

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*See COVID on Next Page*

# Estate planning for cryptocurrency: What happens to your Bitcoin after you die?

**FINE PRINT**

**By JORDAN SUNDELL**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jordan Sundell* is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. *Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.*

Cryptocurrency has never been more popular, so much so that legendary investor Paul Tudor Jones and entrepreneur extraordinaire Elon Musk recently jumped on the bandwagon. Even some Fortune 500 companies have joined the party, converting part of their cash reserves to Bitcoin. The result is skyrocketing valuations as a growing number of people add Bitcoin, Ethereum, and a myriad of other cryptocurrencies to their financial portfolios.

For now, people are focused on the potential of Bitcoin and its brethren. They see the massive gains since Bitcoin was unveiled, and hope that the rocket ship will keep going. But few people have thought much about what will happen to their Bitcoin once they die. And that's asking for trouble because many of the features that initially attracted people to Bitcoin create estate-planning challenges when they die.

For example, Bitcoin is a digital, intangible asset. There's nothing to hold or touch. So, it's unlikely that your heirs would ever know you had any Bitcoin unless you tell them.

What's more, Bitcoin is generally held in online wallets or specialized physical wallets. These wallets, in turn, are protected by a "private key" akin to a password. If the private key is lost, it's difficult to recover. And if your heirs don't have the key, then the Bitcoin is as good as gone. Thus, it's crucial that you create a plan for transferring your private key to your heirs.

But, at the same time, it's important to be careful with your private key because anyone who knows it can transfer your Bitcoin. And those transactions are largely anonymous and irreversible. In other words, letting heirs know your private key while you are still alive creates the risk that they might decide to dip into their inheritance early. And if you let multiple heirs know in advance, and one of them takes advantage of the situation, it will be tricky to figure out who was the culprit.

Another unexpected issue is probate. Often currency bypasses probate. But Bitcoin is not technically a currency according to the Internal Revenue Service. Instead, the IRS classifies Bitcoin (and other cryptocurrencies) as property. As a result, it will be treated like real estate rather than cash or coins. So, technically Bitcoin needs to go through probate before being transferred to your heirs.

A final consideration is taxes. Because Bitcoin is property rather than currency, it's subject to capital-gains tax (just like stocks, bonds, and real estate). And since the value of Bitcoin has went from effectively nothing per coin in 2009 to around $50,000 per coin at the time of this article, the gain could be sizeable.

Now that we've laid out the main problems, what do we do about them? The easiest to solve are the probate and tax issues. To sidestep probate, place the Bitcoin in a revocable living trust. As for taxes, don't gift them to your heirs while you are alive. It's better to use them as part of a charitable-giving plan or, in most cases, to transfer them upon your death. Otherwise, your heirs will be stuck with significant and avoidable capital-gains taxes.

The harder problem is how to safely give your heirs or an agent access to your Bitcoin wallet. How you will want to handle it in part depends on how you store your Bitcoin.

If you have an online wallet, the problem is that you'll eventually need to give someone your private key. And once they have it, they will have ongoing access to that wallet. So, if you want to make sure your coins are accessible only after you die, one way to go about that is to write your private key on a piece of paper and then put it in a bank deposit box that won't be accessed until you pass away. Meanwhile, if you need to give someone access while you are alive, then after their need for access disappears, you may want to set up a new wallet with a different private key, and then transfer your coins there. If so, you'll also want to update your bank-deposit box.

Another approach is "cold storage"—basically a special type of USB that holds the private key. Because this device stores the private key, you don't need to tell your agents or heirs the private key. You can just hand the device from person to person as necessary. And then, voila, they have temporary access to your account. But so too would anyone else who stole the device.

A third approach is emerging thanks to the blossoming of a financial ecosystem around cryptocurrencies. Now, you can buy, sell, and hold Bitcoin through intermediaries like Coinbase that look and act much the same as Ameritrade, Fidelity and Charles Schwab do for stocks and bonds. In these cases, estate planning will generally echo the same strategies as transferring your stocks and bonds after you pass away.

But with all that said, cryptocurrency is a quickly evolving arena. The rules, regulations, and systems surrounding it are in a state of flux. So, be sure to work with knowledgeable resources when setting up an estate plan for your cryptocurrencies. And then periodically check in on your plan to make sure that it's still current.

*This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.*

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# If 'Mein Kampf" can sell on eBay, why not discontinued Dr. Seuss books?

**By KARIN KLEIN**
Los Angeles Times

*Karin Klein is a* Los Angeles Times *editorial board member.*

EBay allows people to sell Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" on its site, as well as the infamously false and anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." "Peter Pan," laden with stereotypes about Native Americans, is for sale there, along with the many books of the "Little House on the Prairie" series, which includes minstrel shows, refers to Black people as "darkies" and contains many negative depictions of Native Americans even though the white protagonists were illegally squatting on Indian land.

And it's fine that all of these are sold. Terrible books with troubling content shouldn't be erased from all memory. So how is it that the six discontinued books by Dr. Seuss are now banned from auction or sale on the site?

That's what the site has announced, after prices on the books shot up to the clouds on the news that they wouldn't be printed because of racist imagery and some racist wording.

The Los Angeles Times editorial board supported the decision by Dr. Seuss Enterprises to stop publishing those books, but not because all books with racist content should be banned. Most adults are smart enough to know the difference between acceptable and deplorable depictions of marginalized people, and how much of the latter comes from eras in which the deplorable was accepted and far too often celebrated. Not that we've gotten past that time, but as a society, many of us are trying.

But these Seuss books were written for preschoolers and primary-grade students. They generally were read time and again by the same children, meaning that racist depictions of Chinese people wearing coolie hats and Africans with hoops in their noses were impressed deeply into their minds, and for many might have formed their first impressions of these groups.

People who are forking over hundreds of dollars for a copy of "If I Ran the Zoo" aren't doing it for the perverse pleasure of showering young minds with racist propaganda. They're snapping up what they think will be a valuable collectible, or simply because of nostalgic fondness for the entire Seuss oeuvre, so that the books won't entirely disappear.

I get it. At a library used book sale decades ago, I bought an early edition of Ogden Nash's "Adventures of Isabel," a lively rhyming tale about a gutsy little girl who faces down nightmares, bears and the like. In one scenario, she's being treated by a Black doctor who punches and pokes her and tries to get her to take a pill. Isabel doesn't comply; she turns around and "cures the doctor." Curing him, it turns out, turns him into a white man.

I read the book to my older kids, wincing at that particular page but, to my shame, never just tossing the book. Sometimes I skipped over the offending part, but of course the kids would note my "mistake" and demand that I turn back to it. Finally, I shelved the book, but I didn't throw it out. It's a reminder of the twisted concepts we never thought much about, even if we considered ourselves nonracists.

The decision to discontinue the books was made by the organization in charge of Dr. Seuss' legacy, and it was the right one. Those books no longer have a proper place on a young child's bookshelf. It's a different matter to prevent adults who want to collect books from being able to purchase copies of them.

This is an obvious attempt by eBay to brand itself as an anti-racist company, and it's well within its legal rights to refuse to allow the sale of whatever it wants. But because the venues for purchasing these books are now extremely limited, it also acts as a kind of censor of which books people can decide to collect and place on their shelves, and that's a shame—and downright hypocritical. If eBay truly thinks that banning offensive books on its site makes it look better, it had better check out a lot more of the offerings up for auction there.

## COVID

*From Page 8*

# Dr. Seuss was part Horton the elephant, part Grinch

Read Across America Day was celebrated Tuesday, as it is every year, on the birthday of the late Theodore Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. Yet neither the National Education Association, which launched Read Across America Day, nor President Joe Biden mentioned Geisel in their official proclamations this week.

Not coincidentally, that was the same day Dr. Seuss Enterprises, which preserves the author's legacy, announced that it would cease publication of six of Geisel's books because of racist wording and imagery, including the first book under his pen name, "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street." The offending illustrations, which Geisel drew, included images of Chinese people in coolie hats and Black Africans with hoops through their noses.

The master of anapestic tetrameter for the early-reader set is under fire these days not just for problematic material in his children's books, but for advertisements in his earlier years that contained even crueler stereotypes of minorities. And in his other children's books, human characters were almost always white. As a result, various groups have called for downgrading his prominence as a children's author.

Geisel also produced a body of work during the World War II era that was decidedly anti-isolationist and anti-racist—while at the same time showing terrible stereotypes of Japanese people.

It's tempting in these days of extreme reactions to reject an artist's entire oeuvre over shortcomings as a person or as an artist—and for a backlash to be mounted against that rejection, claiming that this is so-called cancel culture attempting to limit speech.

But whatever Geisel's strengths and shortcomings were in his work outside of children's literature, the books themselves should stand and fall on their own. And most of them stand.

At the same time, Dr. Seuss Enterprises was right to stop publication of the six books. A great deal of noncontemporary literature involves plotting and characters that would not be accepted in modern works. They remain classics in many cases because we as adults understand the context. But the standard should be different when we're talking about the kind of rhyming, colorfully illustrated books that very young children have read to them. They are exposed over and over—because as any parent knows, children want their favorite books repeated ad infinitum—to racist, inaccurate images and lilting wording that, for example, describes people with eyes "at a slant." If the books can't be fixed, they no longer deserve to be in print.

It's heartening to see a new generation of picture books expose children to a more diverse and inclusive sensibility. But let's not forget that Dr. Seuss was, in general, a treasure, and it's saddening to see Geisel's name left out of a day that was timed to honor his legacy. Books still matter. Fun still matters. At his best, which was often, Dr. Seuss combined them.

(c)2021 the Los Angeles Times

# Are the classics racist?

**By RICH LOWRY**
(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the* National Review.

It was only a matter of time before Cicero got canceled.

*The New York Times* recently profiled Princeton classicist Dan-el Padilla Peralta, who wants to destroy the study of classics as a blow for racial justice.

The critique of classics as stultifying and privileged isn't new, but in the woke era this attack is more potent than ever and has a better chance of demolishing a foundation of Western education.

At a time when Abraham Lincoln doesn't pass muster in the progressive precincts of America, poor benighted Homer, whose chief subject was toxic masculinity, probably doesn't stand a chance.

In its report, *The Times* writes that the critics believe that the study of classics "has been instrumental to the invention of 'whiteness' and its continued domination." Or as Padilla himself puts it, "Systemic racism is foundational to those institutions that incubate classics and classics as a field itself."

It is rare to find other instances of scholars so consumed with hatred for their own disciplines that they literally want to destroy them within. Presumably if an ultra-progressive astrophysicist concludes that his field is desperately out of touch with social justice concerns, he simply goes and does something else for a living rather than agitating to have students stop learning about space.

One would think Padilla's own amazing personal journey would, in itself, make the case for the wonders of the classics. He came here as a child from the Dominican Republic, lived in a homeless shelter in New York City, discovered a book on Ancient Greece and Rome—and with help from a mentor, got into a prep school and went on to get degrees from Princeton, Oxford, and Stanford.

For him, evidently, the classics weren't very exclusionary, and indeed there's no reason that they should be.

The rigors of Greek and Latin, the timeless questions raised by Plato and Aristotle, the literary value of some of the most compelling poems, plays and tracts ever written, the insights of early historians Herodotus and Thucydides, the oratory of Pericles and Cicero, the awe-inspiring beauty of the architecture, sculpture and pottery—all of this is available to anyone of any race, ethnicity or creed.

To look at all these marvels and see only "whiteness" speaks to a reductive obsession with race that is destructive, self-defeating and, in the end, profoundly depressing.

*The Times* complains that, paraphrasing critics, "Enlightenment thinkers created a hierarchy with Greece and Rome, coded as white, on top, and everything else below."

There's quite a simple reason, though, that Greece and Rome have been subjects of study and fascination for so long—their cultural, political and legal contributions are so vast and enduring.

The Greeks gave us the example—flawed and incomplete to be sure—of democracy, and the Roman stamp is still discernible on our legal system and institutions.

Western thought and literature have proceeded throughout their history in dialogue with the classics, constantly interacting with the arguments, themes and characters of those long-ago forebears.

This isn't true of other ancient societies.

Of course, the Greeks and Romans were blinkered, exclusionary, repressive and violent, but who wasn't? Where in the ancient world did slavery not exist? What society afforded women equal status with men? Where did any ruler respect the dignity of all people?

A key difference between the Greeks and Romans and the rest was that their writers critiqued and lampooned their own societies. This willingness to engage in self-criticism became one of the hallmarks, and strengths, of Western culture.

The critics give the Greeks and the Romans the same treatment as the American project, ignoring what was exceptional about them for a monomaniacal focus on their failings, even if the failings were commonplace everywhere else.

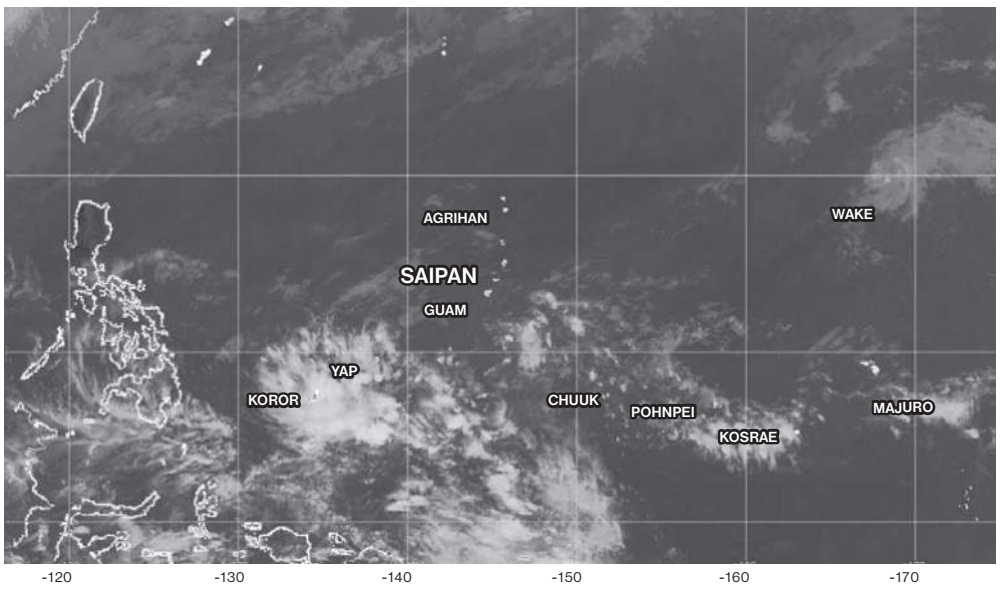
They want to impoverish American college students and ultimately the Western mind in an act of ideological destruction. This is galling enough; it's even worse that they call it progress.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. |
| 86° / 76° | 87° / 77° | 87° / 77° | 87° / 77° | 87° / 77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few showers and moderate to fresh trade winds are seen across the Marianas this morning. A trade-wind trough is seen, just approaching 150E and is expected to reach the Marianas by this evening. Buoys show combined seas around 7 feet with altimetry data indicating seas closer to 8 feet east of the islands.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly cloudy | 86 \| 78 °F |
| Palau | Overcast | 87 \| 77 °F |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 85 \| 71 °F |
| Chuuk | Overcast | 84 \| 79 °F |
| Pohnpei | Rain | 82 \| 78 °F |
| Kosrae | Rain | 82 \| 78 °F |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 86 \| 81 °F |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:29 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:28 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Thursday | 6:27 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Friday | 6:27 AM | 6:26 PM |
| Saturday | 6:26 AM | 6:26 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 3:16 AM | 2:45 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 4:09 AM | 3:43 PM | - |
| Thursday | 4:57 AM | 4:38 PM | - |
| Friday | 5:41 AM | 5:31 PM | - |
| Saturday | 6:21 AM | 6:21 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | 72 \| 67 °F |
| Beijing | Sunny | 57 \| 30 °F |
| Hong Kong | Scattered Clouds | 68 \| 62 °F |
| Honolulu | Clear | 79 \| 64 °F |
| London | Rain | 51 \| 43 °F |
| Los Angeles | Clear | 64 \| 47 °F |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 89 \| 74 °F |
| Melbourne | Clear | 81 \| 52 °F |
| Miami | Mostly Cloudy | 77 \| 70 °F |
| New York | Overcast | 56 \| 50 °F |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | 49 \| 35 °F |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | 51 \| 40 °F |
| Pusan | Clear | 40 \| 26 °F |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 56 \| 46 °F |
| Salem | Light Rain | 45 \| 38 °F |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 55 \| 47 °F |
| Seoul | Clear | 43 \| 25 °F |
| Tokyo | Mostly Cloudy | 50 \| 32 °F |
| Washington, DC | Overcast | 68 \| 50 °F |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 6:12 AM | High Tide | 1.67 |
| 11:28 AM | Low Tide | 1.16 |
| 4:01 PM | High Tide | 1.60 |
| 11:35 PM | Low Tide | -0.25 |

# STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

# FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2021

## DEPARTURES

### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 6:55am | 7:35am | 1, 5, 6 |
| UA117 | 7:00am | 7:40am | 4 |

### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 6:55am | 9:50pm | 1, 5 via Guam |

### GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA183 | 8:00pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 5 |

## ARRIVALS

### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 5:10am | 5:51am | 1, 5, 6 |
| UA174 | 5:15am | 5:56am | 4 |

### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 10:55pm | 5:56am+1 | 3 via Guam |
| UA184/174 | 10:40pm | 5:51am+1 | 5 via Guam |

### MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:40pm | 4:30am+1 | 5 |
| UA184 | 10:55pm | 4:45am+1 | 1, 3 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

# STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat |
| 1303 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat |
| 3103 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun |

### ROTA TO GUAM

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

### GUAM TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable |

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |
| 1212 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |
| 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

# Business

# Night Scent Restaurant opens for take-out

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO
Night Scent Restaurant is located along Coral Tree Avenue across Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Night Scent Restaurant was barely a year in operation when it was forced to shut down due to COVID-19 concerns.

Now, nearly a year into the pandemic, owner Lin Ming has reopened the Chinese restaurant along Coral Tree Avenue across Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, albeit for take-away only.

Before the coronavirus closed restaurants and other business establishments in the CNMI, Night Scent Restaurant was already slowly making a name for itself for its versions of sweet and sour pork and beef broccoli.

Lin said Korean and Chinese tourists frequented their restaurant not because of its proximity to Fiesta Resort and the nearby Hyatt Regency Saipan, but also for the authentic taste of its Chinese cuisine. Other customers were also drawn to the inviting aroma emanating from Night Scent Restaurant's kitchen, which is actually one of the reasons they put the word "scent" in the restaurant's name, according to Lin.

Night Scent Restaurant reopens with a new dish—her husband's family's fried chicken recipe—that is fast becoming a star. Lin said their fried chicken has been the toast of the town since they offered it in their take-away menu. She said, bar none, Night Scent Restaurant's version of fried chicken is the crispiest, juiciest, and tastiest piece of chicken on island.

MARK RABAGO
Night Scent Restaurant's fried chicken and pork sausages on a stick.

MARK RABAGO
Night Scent Restaurant's chicken wrap.

Like the colonel's recipe, how her husband's family's fried chicken is made is proprietary information. She also shared that rumors that they copied the fried chicken of a certain Filipino fast-food chain known for its happy bee are unfounded.

"Our fried chicken recipe has been in my husband's family for generations. My daughter tried Jollibee and of course has eaten our fried chicken. She said they're somewhat similar in taste but our fried chicken is still the best," said Lin.

Aside from their fried chicken, Night Scent Restaurant's take-away menu also has chicken wrap, fried pork sausage on a stick, gold-colored steamed bread, braised chicken feet, oil-splashed noodles, and boba milk tea.

Night Scent Restaurant is open everyday for take-away service from 11am to 10pm. For orders, call 989-1288.

# Workers worry about safety, stress as states ease mask rules

**JACKSON, Mississippi** (AP) —Leo Carney worries that bigger crowds and mask-less diners could endanger workers at the Biloxi, Mississippi, seafood restaurant where he manages the kitchen. Maribel Cornejo, who earns $9.85 an hour as a McDonald's cook in Houston, can't afford to get sick and frets co-workers will become more lax about wearing masks, even though the fast food company requires them.

As more jurisdictions join Texas, Mississippi and other states in lifting mask mandates and easing restrictions on businesses, many essential workers—including bartenders, restaurant servers and retail workers—are relieved by changes that might help the economy but also concerned they could make them less safe amid a pandemic that health experts warn is far from over.

Many business owners on the Mississippi Gulf Coast were glad Gov. Tate Reeves decided to eliminate mask requirements, limits on seating in restaurants and most other binding restrictions. "But the workers themselves... especially ones that have pre-existing conditions, they're scared right now," Carney said.

"This just puts us back in a situation where we're on the frontlines, under the gun again," said Carney, who sees Black Mississippians facing the greatest risks from the decision that took effect Wednesday. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected Black and Latino people in the United States, and many Gulf Coast restaurants have a significant number of Black employees.

Public health experts tracking the trajectory of more contagious virus variants have warned that lifting restrictions too soon could lead to another lethal wave of infections. Although vaccination drives are accelerating as drug manufacturers ramp up production, many essential workers are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccines in Mississippi and other states.

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
2390 Beach Road, Oleai CDA Bldg., Unit 205, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 95960
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**
**2021-CDA-03-RFP**
Closing Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 Time: 10:00 a.m.

**PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEMS**

Copies of the proposal package may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor, Unit 205, CDA Building, Beach Road Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

**/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
**ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/DYS-053**
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-023**
SUBMISSION DATE: April 09, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M

**"Ponding Basin Fencing, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set

The project package will be available on or after **March 09, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 25, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 31, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**
SECRETARY, DPW

**/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

**AGENDA**

**I.** Meeting Call to Order
**II.** Determination of Quorum
**III.** Review and Adoption of Agenda
**IV.** Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/10/2021)
**V.** Public Comments
**VI.** Chairperson's Report
A. Propose amendments to the Pharmacy regulation
**VII.** Director's Report
A. Update on the amendment to P.L. 15-105 – Removal of Limited Terms for HCPLB
**VIII.** Investigator's Report
**IX.** Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
**A.** Governor's Office
**B.** Legislature
**X.** Old Business
**A. Opioid Bills**
**1. SB 21** – Medical Assistance
**2. SB 21** – Good Samaritan Act
**3. SB 21** – CNMI Drug Overdose Policy
**B. § 140-50.3-4700** – Psychology
**C. § 140-50.3-4900** – Addiction Professionals
**XI.** New Business
**XII.** Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
**1. Gail Labatete - SCW**
B. Renewal Applications
**XIII.** Miscellaneous Business
**XIV.** Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
**XV.** Announcements
**A.** Next Meeting Date
**B.** Adjournment of Meeting

# Nation

# Bloody Sunday memorial honors late civil rights giants

**SELMA, Ala.** (AP)—Activists who gathered virtually and in person to commemorate a pivotal day in the civil rights struggle that became known as Bloody Sunday called on people to continue the fight for voting rights as they also honored giants of the civil rights movement, including the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis, who died last year.

The Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee marks the 56th anniversary of Bloody Sunday—the day on March 7, 1965, that civil rights marchers were brutally beaten by law enforcement officers on Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge. Lewis, the Rev. Joseph Lowery, the Rev. C.T. Vivian, and attorney Bruce Boynton were the late civil rights leaders honored on Sunday.

The day became a turning point in the fight for voting rights. Footage of the beatings helped galvanize support for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This year's commemoration comes as some states seek to roll back expanded early and mail-in voting access and efforts have been unsuccessful to restore a key section of the Voting Rights Act that required states with a history of discrimination to get federal approval for any changes to voting procedures.

Many speakers throughout the day's events emphasized the need for continued activism to protect voting access.

AP

In this March 7, 2015, file photo, President Barack Obama, center, walks as he holds hands with Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was beaten during "Bloody Sunday," as the first family and others including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., left of Obama, walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., for the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," a landmark event of the civil rights movement. From front left are Marian Robinson, Sasha Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, Obama, Boynton and Adelaide Sanford, also in wheelchair.

"Voter suppression is still alive and well," said U.S. Rep. Teri Sewell, a Democrat who represents the 7th Congressional District which includes Selma. "It reminds us that progress is elusive and every generation must fight and fight again."

Sewell spoke during a video that featured comments from activists, mayors, members of Congress and others about the historic anniversary. Later, organizers played video footage of activists, many who had been part of the original Bloody Sunday events in 1965, crossing the bridge once again. They wore masks and in keeping with social distancing requirements designed to stop the coronavirus, spread out across the bridge as they walked.

The event typically brings thousands of people to Selma. However, most of the events were held virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The annual Martin & Coretta King Unity Breakfast was held as a drive-in event. The outdoor event included some in-person speakers such as Rev. Bernard LaFayette, and the founders of the group Black Voters Matter. Cliff Albright, one of the group's founders, spoke about the continued need to fight for voter access.

"The movement is not over," he said as people in their cars honked in support. "What we are asking folks today is for us to commit to that moment, for us to commit to this movement."

Others spoke via video link or in prerecorded messages. President Joe Biden appeared via a prerecorded message, in which he announced an executive order aimed at promoting voting access.

"Every eligible voter should be able to vote and have that vote counted," Biden said. "If you have the best ideas, you have nothing to hide. Let the people vote."

Lowery, a charismatic and fiery preacher, is often considered the dean of the civil rights veterans and led the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Vivian began organizing sit-ins against segregation in the 1940s and later joined forces with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1965, Vivian led dozens of marchers to a courthouse in Selma, confronting the local sheriff on the courthouse steps and telling him the marchers should be allowed to register to vote. The sheriff responded by punching Vivian in the head.

## With virus aid in sight, Democrats debate filibuster changes

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—With President Joe Biden on the verge of his first big legislative victory, a key moderate Democrat said Sunday he's open to changing Senate rules that could allow for more party-line votes to push through other parts of the White House's agenda such as voting rights.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin stressed that he wants to keep the procedural hurdle known as the filibuster, saying major legislation should always have significant input from the minority party. But he noted there are other ways to change the rules that now effectively require 60 votes for most legislation. One example: the "talking filibuster," which requires senators to slow a bill by holding the floor, but then grants an "up or down" simple majority vote if they give up.

"The filibuster should be painful, it really should be painful and we've made it more comfortable over the years," Manchin said. "Maybe it has to be more painful."

"If you want to make it a little bit more painful, make him stand there and talk," Manchin added. "I'm willing to look at any way we can, but I'm not willing to take away the involvement of the minority."

Democrats are beginning to look to their next legislative priorities after an early signature win for Biden on Saturday, with the Senate approving a $1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan on a party-line 50-49 vote.

Final passage is expected Tuesday in the House if leaders can hold the support of progressives frustrated that the Senate narrowed unemployment benefits and stripped out an increase to the federal minimum wage to $15 an hour.

Over the weekend, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, representing around 100 House liberals, called the Senate's weakening of some provisions "bad policy and bad politics." But Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., also characterized the changes as "relatively minor concessions" and emphasized the bill retained its "core bold, progressive elements."

Biden says he would sign the measure immediately if the House passed it. The legislation would allow many Americans to receive $1,400 in direct checks from the government this month.

"Lessons learned: If we have unity, we can do big things," a jubilant Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told The Associated Press in an interview after Saturday's vote.

Still, the Democrats' approach required a last-minute call from Biden to Manchin to secure his vote after he raised late resistance to the breadth of unemployment benefits. That immediately raised questions about the path ahead in a partisan environment where few, if any, Republicans are expected to back planks of the president's agenda.

Democrats used a fast-track budget process known as reconciliation to approve Biden's top priority without Republican support, a strategy that succeeded despite the reservations of some moderates. But work in the coming months on other issues such as voting rights and immigration could prove more difficult.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., pledged that Senate Republicans would block passage of a sweeping House-passed bill on voting rights. The measure, known as HR 1, would restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to the campaign finance system. It would serve as a counterweight to voting rights restrictions advancing in Republican-controlled statehouses across the country in the wake of Donald Trump's repeated false claims about a "stolen" election.

"Not one Republican is going to vote for HR 1 because it's a federal takeover of elections, it sets up a system where there is no real voter security or verification," Graham said. "It is a liberal wish list in terms of how you vote."

## Cuomo defiant as top New York lawmakers call on him to quit

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The two top Democrats in New York's legislature withdrew their support for Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Sunday amid mounting allegations of sexual harassment and undercounting COVID-19 deaths in nursing homes.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins became the first senior Democrat in the state to say the three-term governor should resign. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie stopped short of demanding that Cuomo quit, but said in a statement that "it is time for the Governor to seriously consider whether he can effectively meet the needs of the people of New York."

On Saturday, two more women who worked for Cuomo publicly accused him of inappropriate behavior, on the heels of other allegations in recent weeks.

"Every day there is another account that is drawing away from the business of government," Stewart-Cousins said in a statement. "New York is still in the midst of this pandemic and is still facing the societal, health and economic impacts of it. We need to govern without daily distraction. For the good of the state Governor Cuomo must resign."

Her public push for his resignation came shortly after a Sunday press conference where Cuomo said it would be "anti-democratic" for him to step down.

"There is no way I resign," Cuomo told reporters.

"They don't override the people's will, they don't get to override elections," he said. "I was elected by the people of New York state. I wasn't elected by politicians."

In a brief phone conversation Sunday prior to the press conference, Cuomo told Stewart-Cousins he wouldn't quit and they would have to impeach him if they wanted him out of office, according to a person who was briefed by someone on the call. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the call was intended to be private.

# World

# Where IS ruled, pope calls on Christians to forgive, rebuild

**QARAQOSH, Iraq** (AP)—Pope Francis urged Iraq's Christians on Sunday to forgive the injustices against them by Muslim extremists and to rebuild as he visited the wrecked shells of churches and met ecstatic crowds in the community's historic heartland, which was nearly erased by the Islamic State group's horrific reign.

"Fraternity is more durable than fratricide, hope is more powerful than hatred, peace more powerful than war," the pontiff said during prayers for the dead in the city of Mosul, with the call for tolerance that has been the central message of his four-day visit to Iraq.

At each stop in northern Iraq, the remnants of its Christian population turned out, jubilant, ululating and decked out in colorful dress. Heavy security prevented Francis from plunging into the crowd as he would normally. Nonetheless, they simply seemed overjoyed that he had come and that they had not been forgotten.

It was a sign of the desperation for support among an ancient community uncertain whether it can hold on. The traditionally Christian towns dotting the Nineveh Plains of the north emptied out in 2014 as Christians—as well as many Muslims—fled the Islamic State group's onslaught. Only a few have returned to their homes since the defeat of IS in Iraq was declared four years ago, and the rest remain scattered elsewhere in Iraq or abroad.

Bells rang out for the pope's arrival in the town of Qaraqosh.

"The road to a full recovery may still be long, but I ask you, please, not to grow discouraged," Francis told a packed Church of the Immaculate Conception. "What is needed is the ability to forgive, but also the courage not to give up."

The Qaraqosh church has been extensively renovated after being vandalized by IS militants during their takeover of the town, making it a symbol of recovery efforts.

Iraq's Christian population, which has existed here since the time of Christ, has dwindled from around 1.5 million before the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that plunged the country into chaos to just a few hundred thousand today.

Francis's visit, on its last day Sunday, aimed to encourage them to stay, rebuild and restore what he called Iraq's "intricately designed carpet" of faiths and ethnic groups.

Dressed in white, Francis took to a red carpeted stage in Mosul on his first stop of the day, surrounded by the grey hollowed-out shells of four churches—Syriac Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syriac Orthodox and Chaldean—nearly destroyed in the war to oust IS fighters from the city.

It was a scene that would have been unimaginable years earlier. Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, was at the heart of the IS so-called "caliphate" and witnessed the worst of the group's rule inflicted on Muslims, Christians and others, including beheadings and mass killings.

He deviated from his prepared speech to emphasize the plight of Iraq's Yazidi minority, which was subjected to mass killings, abductions and sexual slavery at the hands of IS.

"How cruel it is that this country, the cradle of civilization, should have been afflicted by so barbarous a blow," Francis said, "with ancient places of worship destroyed and many thousands of people – Muslims, Christians, Yazidis—who were cruelly annihilated by terrorism and others forcibly displaced or killed."

IS inflicted atrocities against all communities, including Muslims, during its three-year rule across much of northern and western Iraq. But the Christian minority was hit especially hard. The militants forced them to choose among conversion, death or the payment of a special tax for non-Muslims. Thousands fled, leaving homes and churches that were destroyed or commandeered by the extremists.

## Myanmar crisis heightens with police raids and strike call

**YANGON, Myanmar** (AP)—Myanmar careened deeper into crisis, as police occupied hospitals and universities and reportedly arrested hundreds of people involved in protesting last month's military seizure of power, while a coalition of labor unions called a strike for Monday.

Tension was high Sunday in the country's biggest city, Yangon, where for a second night running gunshots from heavy weapons rang out randomly in the streets of several neighborhoods after the start of an 8 p.m. curfew. The sounds of what apparently were stun grenades could also be heard on videos posted on social media.

The purpose for security forces using such weapons when protesters had left the streets appeared to be part of a strategy to strike fear in anyone who might think about defying the authorities. In a similar vein, there were many filmed incidents of police and soldiers in plain view savagely beating protesters they had taken into custody.

Some of the shooting was heard near hospitals, where reports said neighborhood residents sought to block the entry of police and soldiers.

Security forces have often targeted medical personnel and facilities, attacking ambulances and their crews. Members of the medical profession launched the Civil Disobedience Movement, which is the nominal coordinator of the protests, frequently hailed on demonstrators' signs by its CDM initials. Taking over hospitals would allow the authorities to easily arrest wounded people presumed to be protesters.

Large protests have occurred daily across many cities and towns in Myanmar, and security forces have responded with ever greater use of lethal force and mass arrests. At least 18 protesters were shot and killed on Feb. 28 and 38 on Wednesday, according to the U.N. Human Rights Office. More than 1,500 have been arrested, the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said.

Protests in various cities and towns were again met Sunday by police firing warning shots, and employing tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades.

In a single Yangon neighborhood, Shwepyitha, at least 100 students were reported arrested, and many protesters were also said to have been detained in other cities, especially at universities.

Myanmar labor unions, meanwhile, issued a joint call for a nationwide work stoppage beginning Monday, with the goal of a "full, extended shutdown of the Myanmar economy."

## UK schools to reopen, backed by frequent virus testing

**LONDON** (AP)—British students, backed by a robust coronavirus testing program, are gearing up to return to school Monday after a two-month closure, in what Prime Minister Boris Johnson says is a plan to get the country "moving closer to a sense of normality."

The reopening of schools is the first step in the U.K. government's plan to gradually ease COVID-19 restrictions as the country's vaccination drive gains critical mass, with all restrictions lifted by June.

As part of the plan, millions of high school and college students coming back to U.K. classrooms will be tested for the virus for the first few weeks. Authorities want to quickly detect and isolate asymptomatic cases in order to avoid sending entire schools home.

"We are being cautious in our approach so that we do not undo the progress we have made so far," Johnson said in a statement, urging everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated.

High schools and colleges will be allowed to reopen in phases to allow for three rounds of testing. Students will then get kits so they can test themselves twice more at home. The U.K. government has distributed nearly 57 million rapid "lateral flow" test kits to schools across the country, but there are concerns about the accuracy of the tests, which may result in pupils being forced to self-isolate unnecessarily

A senior public health official, however, said Sunday that the risk of a false positive was very low. More than 5 million rapid tests have been carried out at schools during lockdown, including 1 million last week, the government said.

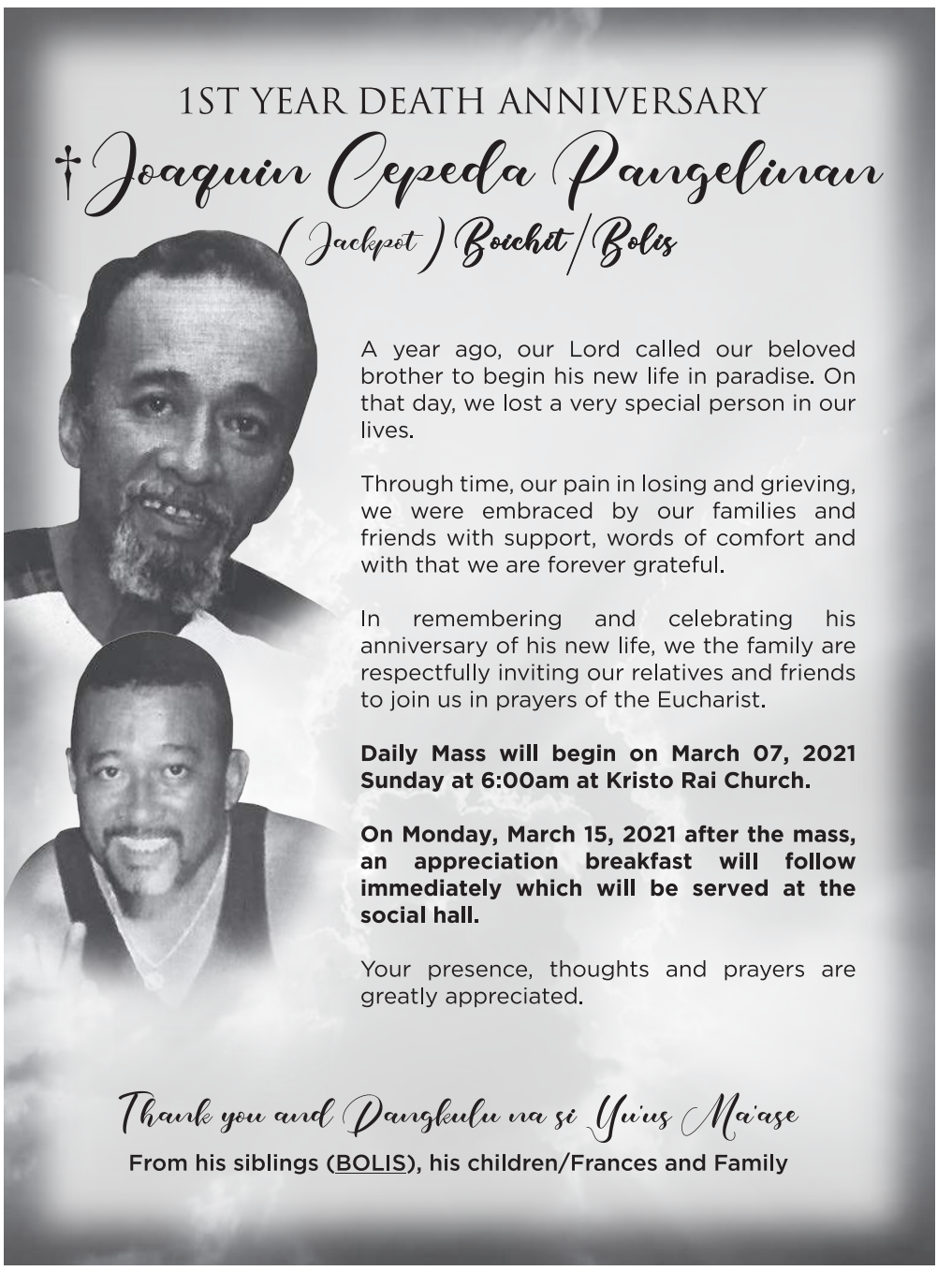
Evidence from testing over the past eight weeks indicates "the risk of false positives is extremely low, less than 1 in 1,000," Susan Hopkins, the COVID-19 strategic response director for Public Health England, told the BBC. "And a test that returns less than 1 in 1,000 false positives is a very good test."

To help children forced into online learning for months to catch up with their education, officials are considering extending school days, shortening the summer holiday or adding an extra term to the year. British students already have a much shorter summer holiday than American students, usually leaving for summer break after mid-July.

"We're looking at a whole range of measures," U.K. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson told Sky News. "We've got to look at what is going to have the biggest positive impact on children's lives."

Britain has Europe's deadliest coronavirus outbreak, with nearly 125,000 lives lost so far. Its coronavirus vaccination program has, however, raced ahead of the United States and the European Union to give at least a first dose to nearly 22 million of the country's adults so far.

Britain has approved three vaccines for use: those made by Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca, and plans to vaccinate all adults by July.



1ST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†Joaquin Cepeda Pangelinan
(Jackpot) Boichit/Bolis
A year ago, our Lord called our beloved brother to begin his new life in paradise. On that day, we lost a very special person in our lives.
Through time, our pain in losing and grieving, we were embraced by our families and friends with support, words of comfort and with that we are forever grateful.
In remembering and celebrating his anniversary of his new life, we the family are respectfully inviting our relatives and friends to join us in prayers of the Eucharist.
Daily Mass will begin on March 07, 2021 Sunday at 6:00am at Kristo Rai Church.
On Monday, March 15, 2021 after the mass, an appreciation breakfast will follow immediately which will be served at the social hall.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Dangkulu na si Yuus Ma'ase
From his siblings (BOLIS), his children/Frances and Family

# Overdrive

## Hot-selling 2021 Ford Bronco Sport gets second recall, this time for rollover risk

By PHOEBE WALL HOWARD
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Ford Motor Co. is recalling its popular 2021 Bronco Sport for a second time, now for an incorrect lower control arm that could result in reduced vehicle stability and increase the risk of a rollover crash at maximum roof load.

This recall involves 106 vehicles built on Dec. 9; Ford estimated 50% are defective.

Ford Bronco Sport was just launched in November. Ford had sold 13,170 Bronco Sports in the U.S. through January, according to its sales reports.

The recall is posted on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website dated Feb. 16 with Ford documents attached. The company did not send out a media notice, as is routine, because the action affected fewer than 250 consumers.

Ford confirmed early Friday the second recall and notice information is available to consumers on the Ford website.

'Squeak and rattle'

David Johnson, director, service engineering operations, Ford customer service division, wrote federal officials on Feb. 17 that any incorrect front lower control arm will be replaced, and the front suspension will be aligned at no charge to the owner.

Ford said in the filing it is not aware of any injuries or deaths related to this issue.

Explaining how the safety problem occurred, Ford said:

"On December 11, 2020, a squeak and rattle audit at Ford Hermosillo Assembly Plant identified a noise in the front LH (left hand) lower control arm. The team reviewed the part and determined that it was an incorrect part and not the one required for the Bronco Sport. Further investigation determined that the supplier (Martinrea) incorrectly built 25 LH (left hand) and 25 RH (right hand) parts into a maximum of 50 front suspension modules for Bronco Sport."

"On February 9, 2021, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action," Ford said.

"The supplier produced front suspension modules with incorrect front lower control arms due to insufficient material control," Johnson wrote.

The vehicle parts and modules supplier, Ontario, Canada-based Martinrea International, has an office in Auburn Hills. The Bronco Sport is assembled in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

Ford letters are expected to go out to Bronco Sport owners the week of April 5, asking them to have their vehicles inspected and repaired as needed, according to the federal website.

A rough month

On Feb. 19, Ford announced its recall of 1,666 Bronco Sports for a rear suspension flaw where loose or missing bolts could affect vehicle stability and reduce protection during rear impact.

Also this month, Ford recalled the 2020-21 Ford F-150, in addition to the 2020 Ford F-Series Super Duty and a repeat Takata recall involving 154,000 vehicles to fix a previous Ford recall where parts seem to have been unaccounted for.

Recalls of new products come following launch challenges in 2019 and 2020:

2021 F-150 built in Dearborn, parked around Metro Airport for quality hold 2021 F-150 built at Kansas City Assembly, parked near Worlds of Fun for quality hold Delivery delay of the 2021 Bronco due to supplier disruption 2020 Explorer, Police Interceptor and Lincoln Aviator delays after Chicago build

Ford CEO Jim Farley told analysts on Wednesday during a fireside chat as part of the Wolfe Research Virtual Global Auto, Auto Tech, and Mobility Conference that he is committed to reducing warranty costs and inefficiencies. He said the company has the opportunity to reduce more than $1 billion in such costs globally, mostly in North America.

"We are not competitive yet on costs," Farley said.

(MARK PHELAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS)
2021 Ford Bronco Sport Outer Banks model. Ford is recalling the model for a second time, now for an incorrect lower control arm that could result in reduced vehicle stability and increase the risk of a rollover crash at maximum roof load.

## Motormouth: How will all those charging stations work?

**Q: With the advent of EVs and the need for thousands of charging stations, who is going to pay for them and will there be a cost to use one? If so, how much?**
**—P.J., Carol Stream, Ill.**

**A:** Good question, but one that I cannot answer in just a few words. Some stations are free, some you pay per kilowatt. There is no standard fee that I know of. Some are installed by retail businesses at their own cost to attract more customers who may spend more time shopping. Some stations are connected to the power grid, some are solar powered, especially in public municipal lots. The U.S. Department of Energy has an in-depth publication that may answer some more of your questions at https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/evse_cost_report_2015.pdf.

**Q: We came upon a problem that the dealer and two shops can't fix. The brake pedal, which did catch at the normal amount in its travel, must now be depressed nearly to the floor before it grabs. The master cylinder has been changed, the front brake pads and rotors have also been replaced, and the fluid has been bled. The dealer states it is fine. It's definitely not. My wife and I would like to keep the vehicle, but do not like the fact that the pedal feels like it's not going to work. We may need a newer ride, but we love the van. Any idea as to what may be going on? Thanks for a great column; I have enjoyed reading it for the past 30 years.**
**—M.M., Marengo, Ill.**

**A:** If I am not mistaken, the pushrod connecting the brake pedal to the master cylinder is adjustable. Some master cylinders have a deeper dimple requiring a lengthened push rod.

**Q: I haven't heard about snow tires for many years. I think I remember my father having them a long time ago. I usually just get good all-season tires. Recently, my son-in-law in Wisconsin said everyone has snow tires. I asked what do you do with the regular tires during the winter and vice-versa. Many of us live in apartments, condos and townhomes and don't have space for that. What are your feelings on snow tires in Chicagoland?**
**—C.A., Aurora, Ill**

**A:** Flatlanders, which cheeseheads like to refer to Illinoisans as, may not need winter tires. All season tires will suffice most of the time. But when the terrain becomes a bit hilly, winter tires will usually get you where you are going much better. Winter tires are not necessary in climates where it seldom snows, but this year that is almost nowhere. Yeah, storing your tires is a hassle.

**Q: Last year, I purchased a 2008 BMW 328i, but I only received one key. I asked the local BMW dealer about purchasing a spare key. The service rep quoted me $261 for the key itself, plus $176 labor to re-program the key, plus $47 in shop supplies, plus $34 tax. This looked somewhat high, so I politely declined. Are you aware of any way I can purchase a spare key at a lower cost?**
**—M.W., Englewood, Fla.**

**A:** Unfortunately, the only way to get a brand new, original BMW key fob is to buy it from the dealer. But if you search online, you will find used fobs and even some reconditioned fobs for much less. Of course, you will still need to get it programmed. I would refuse to pay for shop supplies. No supplies are consumed and no hazardous wastes need be handled.

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

*Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications,* Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

# Life & Style

## Race, title and anguish: Meghan and Harry explain royal rift

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—In a wide-ranging interview aired Sunday, Harry and Meghan described painful palace discussions about the color of their son's skin, losing royal protection and the intense pressures that led the Duchess of Sussex to contemplate suicide.

The interview with Oprah Winfrey was the couple's first since they stepped down from royal duties and the two-hour special included numerous revelations likely to reverberate on both sides of the Atlantic.

Harry told Winfrey that he felt trapped by royal life and was surprised that he was cut off financially and lost his security last year. He also said he felt his family did not support Meghan, who acknowledged her naivete about royal life before marrying Harry, as she endured tabloid attacks and false stories.

Meghan, who is biracial, described that when she was first pregnant with son Archie, there were "concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he's born." The statement led Winfrey to ask "What," incredulously and sit in silence for a moment.

In a rare positive moment in the interview, Harry and Meghan revealed their second would be a girl. The interview opened with Winfrey gushing over Meghan's pregnancy and lamenting that COVID-19 protocols kept them from hugging.

The interview was in the United States a full day before it will air in Britain. The revelations aren't over: Winfrey teased additional bits of the interview would be shown Monday morning on CBS.

In response to a question from Winfrey, Harry said he wouldn't have left royal life if not for his wife, the actor formerly known as Meghan Markle who starred in the TV drama "Suits." He said their relationship revealed the strictures of royal life.

"I wouldn't have been able to, because I myself was trapped," Harry said. "I didn't see a way out.

"I was trapped, but I didn't know I was trapped," Harry said, before adding, "My father and my brother, they are trapped."

Harry acknowledged that he does not have a close relationship presently with his brother William, who is heir to the throne after their father, Prince Charles.

This image provided by Harpo Productions shows Prince Harry, from left, and Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex, in conversation with Oprah Winfrey.

JOE PUGLIESE/HARPO PRODUCTIONS VIA AP

Winfrey at various points in the interview ran through headlines about Meghan and at one point asked about the mental health impact. Meghan responded that she experienced suicidal thoughts and had sought help through the palace's human resources department, but was told there was nothing they could do.

"I was really ashamed to say it at the time and a shame to have to admit it to Harry, especially because I know how much loss he suffered," she said. "But I knew that if I didn't say it that I would do it. And I just didn't, I just didn't want to be alive anymore."

Meghan said she grew concerned about her son not having a royal title because it meant he wouldn't be provided security.

Meghan said processing everything while pregnant was "very hard." More than the "prince" title, she was most concerned about her son's safety and protection.

"He needs to be safe," a teary-eyed Meghan recalled. "We're not saying don't make him a prince or princess, whatever it's going to be. But if you're saying the title is going to affect their protection, we haven't created this monster machine around us in terms of click bait and tabloid fodder. You've allowed that to happen, which means our son needs to be safe."

Meghan said it was hard for her to understand why there were concerns within the royal family about her son's skin color. She said it was hard for her to "compartmentalize" those conversations.

Harry, too, said there are lasting impacts about Meghan's treatment and his relationship with his family.

"There is a lot to work through there," Harry said about his relationship with his father. "I feel really let down. He's been through something similar. He knows what pain feels like. And Archie is his grandson. I will always love him, but there is a lot of hurt that has happened."

Harry said the royal family cut him off financially at the start of 2020 after announcing plans to step back from his roles. But he was able to afford security for his family because of the money his mother, Princess Diana, left behind.

## Audiences hold back, even as more movie theaters open

**(AP)**—Theaters reopening in New York City this weekend did not set the box office on fire. North American theatrical grosses stayed relatively muted, despite some major new releases like Disney's "Raya and the Last Dragon" and Lionsgate's Tom Holland and Daisy Ridley action flick "Chaos Walking," according to studio estimates Sunday.

Walt Disney Animation's " Raya and the Last Dragon " earned an estimated $8.6 million from 2,045 locations in North America. The well-reviewed fantasy adventure, featuring the voices of Awkwafina and Kelly Marie Tran, is also available for Disney+ subscribers to rent and stream at home for $29.99. Streaming grosses were not reported.

Warner Bros. "Tom & Jerry," which is available to stream free for HBO Max subscribers, brought in $6.6 million from 2,563 North American theaters in its second available weekend. Last weekend the animated film scored the best domestic opening of the year with $13.7 million.

"Chaos Walking," meanwhile, debuted with $3.8 million. The future set film from "Edge of Tomorrow" director Doug Liman cost around $100 million to make.

Approximately 80% of the domestic market is currently allowed to operate with limited capacity. Many areas in North America are not yet fully open, including Los Angeles, and most California counties, Washington D.C., and much of Canada.

Disney is hoping to keep "Raya" in theaters throughout the spring. There are scant major family films on the schedule until early summer and the company is hoping for increased play during spring breaks and as more territories reopen.

Internationally, "Raya and the Last Dragon" earned an estimated $17.6 million from 32 territories--the highest grossing of which was China with $8.4 million.

## Son is consumed by regret over treatment of his father

DEAR ABBY: I brought my 68-year-old immigrant father to live with me permanently with the intention of caring for him. He was completely dependent. Halfway through the year, I got angry, told him to move back and vowed to myself I would never ever care for him again. It wasn't that he did anything wrong; I don't know why I got so angry.

He wound up living alone, being helped by his friends. I visited him, but I became disconnected. I knew he was suffering, but I couldn't bring myself to bring him back to live with me. I was extraordinarily cruel, and it hurt him deeply. I let his green card lapse. He passed away two years later.

Since then, I have been overwhelmed with guilt. As a son, I should have cared for my father. I am depressed over my actions. I am a horrible son. I have been crying and asking for forgiveness. Please tell me how I can move forward.

GUILT-RIDDEN IN THE WEST

**DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: Performing the role of caregiver is an enormous undertaking. While it can be rewarding, it can also be exhausting, unrelenting and stressful. Caregivers have been known to lose their tempers because of the pressure, but because you had bitten off more than you could chew, your reaction was extreme.**

**If you are religious, talk about this with your clergyperson. If you aren't, please consider scheduling some appointments with a licensed mental health professional who can help you more fully understand what happened between you and your father and help you cope with your guilt. And in the future -- once you are able -- consider atoning by volunteering for a charity that serves the elderly.**

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a functioning alcoholic for more than 30 years. He was once funny and nice and a good dad. But over the years he has become unbearable to live with. He doesn't shower or brush his teeth. He was always mainly a beer drinker, but now he is drinking hard liquor and stays drunk most of the time he is awake.

I told him I thought he was depressed and a severe alcoholic, and he should talk to his doctor, but he refuses. He walks around cursing under his breath, and nobody wants to be around him. I keep him off the road when he has been drinking, but I'm terrified he will hurt someone. I am pretty sure he is drinking on the job, and I'm scared he will hurt himself. I am ready to leave him, but afraid that if I do, he will be completely lost. Please guide me.

LOST IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR LOST: You don't need me to tell you that your husband is in bad shape. I don't know what his job involves, but if he's interacting with others, I am surprised he can get away with having such poor hygiene and being stoned on alcohol.**

**Because he refuses to talk to his doctor about this, you should. I hope you are beginning to realize that, on the path he is on, you cannot "save" him. I have mentioned Al-Anon many times in my column. The organization is an offshoot of Alcoholics Anonymous and was started to help families and friends of individuals who are unable to control their drinking. You will gain insight about what to do next if you attend some of their meetings. Find one by going to al-anon.org/info.**

■■■

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

### DEAR ABBY

**By Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HEY DAD, HOBBES SAYS THAT TIGERS ARE MORE PERFECTLY EVOLVED THAN HUMANS!
HE SAYS THAT IF THE PLAYING FIELD WAS LEVEL AND WE DIDN'T HAVE GUNS, PEOPLE WOULD BE NOTHING BUT CAT FOOD! TELL HIM THAT'S NOT...
THERE! 10 CENTS.
WE BET A QUARTER, YOU CHISELER.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHERE'S MOM?
SHE'S IN MY OFFICE TALKING TO HER EDITOR.
I'VE GOT BOOK REWRITES DUE, LIKE, TOMORROW!!
BREW SOME COFFEE!! I'LL GET MY SNACKS!
THINGS FEEL TOPSY-TURVY.
I'M GETTING A BIT OF AN OPPOSITE DAY VIBE, YES.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ELVIN WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP MOVE A COUCH.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT. MAKE UP A GOOD EXCUSE.
ENO IS A LAZY BUM AND TOO WEAK TO LIFT HIS END.
HE BOUGHT IT.
I'M SURPRISED.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Pear type
5 Dead heat
8 John in "Atlas Shrugged"
12 Norwegian seaport
13 New England cape
14 Largest continent
15 Tracy — (Ricki Lake's "Hairspray" role)
17 Pizzazz
18 London's Old —
19 Narcotic
21 Two-legged stand
24 "East of Eden" son
25 Fine
26 "What great news!"
30 Website contact no.
31 Gantry of fiction
32 Eggs
33 Deli sandwich filler
35 Low digits
36 Make — for it (flee)
37 Foul up
38 Pirate flag symbols
41 Rotating part
42 Casual shirt
43 Unbreakable
48 Flair
49 "— Town"
50 Top-of-the-line
51 Six-pack units
52 Composer Rorem
53 Calendar abbr.

**DOWN**

1 Droid
2 Buckeyes' sch.
3 Camera type
4 Truck procession
5 Body powder
6 — pickle
7 Supported
8 Looking intently
9 On the Aegean, say
10 Roster
11 London gallery
16 Auction action
20 Indigent
21 This and that
22 Furniture brand
23 Tropical tree
24 Capital of Jordan
26 Mirage
27 Booty
28 With (Fr.)
29 Sprint
31 British noble
34 Beauty parlors
35 Male feline
37 Prohibit
38 Detail, briefly
39 Caffeine source
40 — Bator
41 String
44 Wish undone
45 Baseball's Gehrig
46 Hydrocarbon ending
47 — Moines

Solution time: 22 mins.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | B | ■ | S | P | E | L | L | ■ | T | D | S |
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| A | I | S | L | E | S | ■ | R | O | C | K | ■ | ■ |
| M | S | T | ■ | S | T | P | ■ | N | E | S | T | S |
| A | I | O | G | ■ | S | T | U | ■ | S | T | A | ■ |
| ■ | A | P | U | ■ | ■ | A | M | S | ■ | O | R | E |
| ■ | ■ | W | A | R | T | ■ | ■ | E | E | P | A | ■ |
| A | C | A | C | I | A | ■ | I | N | D | ■ | ■ | ■ |
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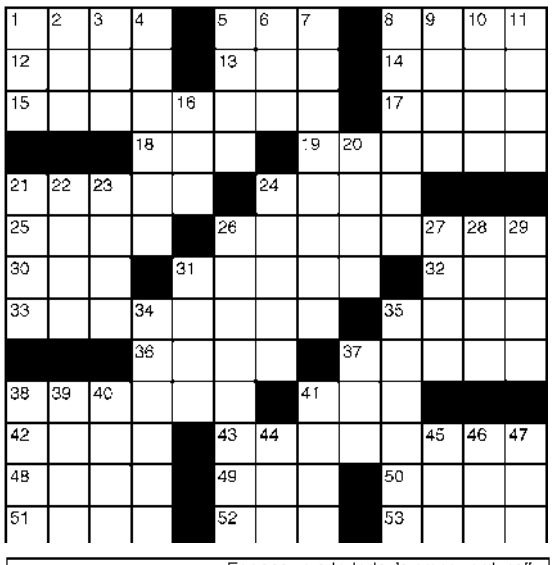
| A | R | C | ■ | M | O | W | E | R | ■ | U | N | O |
| N | T | H | ■ | S | E | E | D | Y | ■ | B | O | X |

Yesterday's answer 3-9



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Bow Wow, 34; Brittany Snow, 35; Matthew Gray Gubler, 41; Juliette Binoche, 57.

**Happy Birthday:** Refuse to let change throw you off guard this year. Accept the inevitable, and keep moving forward. Use your ingenuity, and you'll find new ways to use your talents to fit whatever is trending. Keeping up, staying informed and projecting a positive attitude will attract attention. Surround yourself with projects that promote personal growth and like-minded people. Romance is favored. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 28, 35, 41, 44.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Adapt and go about your business. Embrace new beginnings with enthusiasm. How you use your energy to get things done will help you gain support and the respect you desire. Don't take a health risk or make an impulsive purchase. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your life simple and the promises you make doable. Refuse to let your emotions get in the way of common sense. Focus on self-improvement instead of trying to change others. Put your energy into something that will benefit you long-term. ✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let down your guard, even if someone is complimentary or seductive. Recognize manipulation when someone turns on the charm or uses emotional tactics to take advantage of you. Don't let anger set in when intelligence is required. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Educate yourself before sharing your opinion. Change can be helpful if it saves you money, improves your health or helps you make a difference. Nurture a meaningful relationship, and it will lead to a positive change at home. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look for the right opportunity. Don't let someone talk you into something that will benefit them, not you. Carefully pick and choose who you associate with. A partnership will require equality on all fronts if it's going to bring good results. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Learn through observation, and make adjustments that will help you navigate your way to a better position. An older or established individual will offer insight into possibilities. Don't be afraid to try something new. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be receptive to suggestions. Focus on education, communication and expanding your interests and circle of friends. Let your curiosity mount and your desire for mental stimulation open up doors that will encourage you to use your skills diversely. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pace yourself, think matters through and look at all sides of a situation. Focus on what's possible, and you'll find unique ways to navigate your way through situations that are likely to lead to a dead end. Make peace and love priorities. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put more time and energy into how you earn your living or manage your money or shared expenses and less time into relationships with people taking advantage of you or not being honest about long-term plans. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take care of yourself physically. Start a fitness routine that encourages you to pay close attention to diet and lifestyle, and it will lift your spirits and confidence. Personal improvements will promote better work habits and result in overall success. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Discipline, hard work and persistence will play roles in how well you do today. Getting along and keeping the peace will make your life easier. Consider what's important to you, and work quietly by yourself to ward off unwanted interference. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take the initiative to address issues that are slowing you down. Focus on efficiency and productivity so you can accomplish what you set out to do. A change of heart will give you a new perspective on life, love and happiness. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are spontaneous, aggressive and emotional. You are original and possessive. ✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | 9 | | | 3 | 4 | 1 | |
| | | 8 | | | | | 7 | |
| | | | 2 | | 6 | | | 3 |
| | | | 5 | | | 6 | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | | 1 | | | 9 | | | |
| 2 | | | 6 | | 7 | | | |
| | 4 | | | | | 2 | | |
| | 9 | 6 | 1 | | | 8 | | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 |

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SHELDON ADELSON (1933-2021) Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | B | E | T | A | N | G | A | M | A | L | I | B | U | S |
| R | O | T | S | E | V | N | I | M | O | N | I | S | A | C |
| I | S | R | K | N | A | T | A | M | A | R | D | Ⓝ | A | S |
| S | T | R | C | C | C | R | D | C | O | M | D | Ⓔ | X | T |
| H | O | L | O | H | I | G | A | R | Y | S | H | Ⓦ | K | T |
| O | N | M | E | N | E | R | M | E | G | A | H | Ⓢ | I | E |
| N | N | L | A | A | O | S | T | Y | R | R | O | L | S | S |
| H | L | B | G | K | R | D | T | A | E | O | T | A | R | U |
| A | A | R | M | Y | O | S | S | E | P | L | E | S | O | H |
| Y | A | R | T | H | U | R | I | M | R | E | L | V | N | C |
| O | A | K | B | U | S | I | N | E | S | S | S | E | O | A |
| M | E | C | O | T | A | I | S | T | R | I | P | G | H | S |
| R | E | C | I | N | E | V | E | N | E | T | I | A | N | S |
| P | H | I | L | A | N | T | H | R | O | P | I | S | T | A |
| L | U | G | O | M | A | C | A | U | M | A | I | R | I | M |

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Adam, Army, Arthur, Boston, Business, Casino, COMDEX, Cotai Strip, Donor, Dorchester, Gary, Hayom, Honors, Hotels, Investor, Israel, Las Vegas, Macau, Magnate, Makor, Malibu, Marina Bay, Massachusetts, Matan, Mega, Miriam, Mitchell, Mogul, News, Patrick, Philanthropist, Rishon, Role, Sandra, Sands, Sarah, Shelley, Venetian, Venice

**Yesterday's Answer: Taste Buds**

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# Team LeBron wins NBA All-Star Game, 170-150

**ATLANTA** (AP)—In the midst of a pandemic, this was assured of being an NBA All-Star Game like no other.

The stands were mostly empty. The crowd noise was largely piped in. There were no A-list celebrities sitting courtside. Two players had to sit out after getting haircuts.

But in the end, it had a familiar feel.

Team LeBron won again.

Knocking down shots from all over the court, LeBron James' powerhouse squad closed the first half with a dominating run to set up a 170-150 romp over Team Durant in the league's 70th midseason showcase Sunday night.

The top vote-getters in each conference have picked the teams the last four years, a duty that James has earned every season.

He's now 4-0, having defeated Stephen Curry's squad in 2018 and teams selected by Milwaukee's two-time reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo the previous two years.

This time, James drafted his two former adversaries and blew away Kevin Durant's team.

"I think he's got a future as a GM," said Damian Lillard, another of James' inspired selections. "He always gets it right."

Antetokounmpo was the game's MVP after shooting 16 of 16 for 35 points, even making all three of his attempts beyond the 3-point stripe. It was the most baskets without a miss in All-Star Game history.

"I'm just having fun," the Greek star said. "Sometimes when you're having fun and not thinking about the outcome, you just let your instincts take over."

Curry chipped in with 28 points, while Lillard had 32.

James spent most of the night admiring his drafting skill from the bench. He played less than 13 minutes, scored just four points, and didn't return to the court in the second half.

Instead, he munched a snack on the bench.

"I know he was managing his minutes tonight," Curry said. "We had a great time, representing him as captain. It was a memorable night for sure."

It sure was for Curry, who won the 3-point competition beforehand, then went 8 of 16 from beyond the arc in the game.

Lillard matched him, also making 8 of 16 from 3-point range.

This All-Star Game sure was different than the previous 69.

Determined to pull off an exhibition that is huge for TV revenue and the league's worldwide brand, the NBA staged the game in a mostly empty downtown arena, a made-for-TV extravaganza that was symbolic of the coronavirus era.

Despite extensive safety protocols in place, two players didn't even make it to tipoff. Philadelphia stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons were ruled out because they got haircuts from a barber who tested positive for COVID-19.

The only good thing for Durant: He didn't have to participate in this shellacking, sitting out the game with an ailing hamstring.

Bradley Beal led Team Durant with 26 points.

On a night highlighting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Team LeBron swept the first three quarters and cruised to the final target score, earning a total of $750,000 for its charity, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

The game got out of hand late in the second quarter.

With scant defense being played, Team LeBron took turns dunking off alley-oop passes. Chris Paul delivered back-to-back lobs that Lillard and Curry slammed through. Then, it was Paul on the receiving end of a payback pass from Curry.

After showing it could handle shots up close, Team LeBron headed outside in the final seconds of the half.

Lillard pulled up for a 3-pointer from the half-court line. Not to be outdone, Curry knocked down one from virtually the same spot.

"It was a lot of fun," Lillard said. "Me and Steph shoot a lot of 3s. We shoot deep 3s. It was 3, 3, 3, 3, 3."

Amid the joyful moments, the atmosphere at State Farm Arena was downright eerie compared to a normal All-Star Game.

Instead of a packed house, with A-list celebrities crammed into prime courtside seats, this game was attended by a smattering of hand-picked guests. They had plenty of room to spread out in a 17,000-seat venue that was essentially transformed into a giant television studio, with socially distanced spectators kept far from the court.

Towering video screens were set up behind the benches. Vegas-style lights flashed around the arena. Recorded crowd noise blared over the sound system. The entertainment was provided by the host Atlanta Hawks, who didn't have any players in the game but were represented by their cheerleaders, drum line and DJ.

To address fears that one of its biggest events would become a super-spreader for a virus that has killed more than a half-million Americans, the NBA pared down its usual weekend-long ritual of extravagant parties, gridlocked streets and people watching

This All-Star Game was a one-night-only event, with a pair of skill competitions held shortly before the game and the Dunk Contest squeezed into the halftime break. The players flew in Saturday afternoon and were largely confined to a nearby hotel except for their time on the court.

"This is when everyone in basketball all over the world comes to one city," James said before the game. "We're able to sit back and go, 'Wow, this is the game we have built.' It's a beautiful weekend for all walks of life, on the floor and off the floor.

"But I'm sitting here in my hotel room, isolated. My family's not here. I'm by myself. It's just different, to say the least, compared to previous years."

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James walks onto the court for the first half of basketball's NBA All-Star Game in Atlanta, Sunday, March 7, 2021.

## *Embiid, Simmons miss All-Star Game; Zion starts instead*

Philadelphia 76ers teammates Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons were ruled out of the NBA All-Star Game on Sunday after being flagged by coronavirus contact tracing, prompting some players to question again why the exhibition was being played during a pandemic.

The 76ers and the NBA learned of the situation with Embiid and Simmons — which stemmed from getting haircuts — on Saturday night and made the decision Sunday morning that neither could play about nine hours before the scheduled tipoff.

The game in Atlanta went forward as scheduled.

"It's just an unfortunate time in the world where our health and safety should be at the front of the helm," All-Star Paul George of the Los Angeles Clippers said Sunday from Atlanta, several hours before the game. "I personally didn't agree with the game but, you know, it is what it is."

A person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Embiid and Simmons have both tested negative for COVID-19, and that their barber has tested positive for it. Both players saw the barber a day or two before flying to Atlanta, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Sunday because those details were not released publicly.

"It's kind of messed up," Washington All-Star Bradley Beal said. "It's unfortunate."

Embiid would have been a starter for Team Durant, which was coached by Philadelphia's Doc Rivers. Simmons would have been a reserve for Team LeBron. New Orleans' Zion Williamson started in Embiid's place, and both teams had 11 players on the active rosters instead of the usual 12.

Embiid and Simmons were in Atlanta, though were permitted to leave later Sunday. The NBA was providing private flights for all players to and from the All-Star Game.

A number of players — All-Star captain LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers among them — openly wondered in recent weeks why the game was being played. Sunday's news provided a reminder of why those concerns seemed valid. ***(AP)***

### OTHER WINNERS

All-Star Weekend was crammed into a few hours.

During the pregame, Indiana forward Domantas Sabonis defeated Orlando center Nikola Vucevic in the Skills Challenge, redeeming last year's finals loss to Bam Adebayo. That was followed by Curry knocking off Utah's Mike Conley to capture the 3-Point Contest for the second time. The Warriors star added to the long-range title he won in 2015.

At halftime, Portland's Anfernee Simons defeated New York Knicks rookie Obi Toppin in the Slam Dunk Contest, nearly kissing the rim with his winning throw-down. Cassius Stanley of the Indiana Pacers was eliminated in the opening round.

## Kawhi and Popovich reunited? Leonard wants to go to Olympics

Kawhi Leonard is planning to play for Gregg Popovich again and chase a gold medal.

Leonard said Sunday at the All-Star Game in Atlanta that he is planning to compete with USA Basketball this summer at the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics—which would reunite him with Popovich.

Leonard spent his first seven seasons in the NBA with Popovich and the San Antonio Spurs, before moving on to the Toronto Raptors and now the Los Angeles Clippers. Popovich will serve as head coach at the Olympics for the first time.

"My plan is to go," Leonard said. He helped Popovich and the Spurs win the 2014 NBA championship and was MVP of that season's finals.

The Olympics could be a potentially tight squeeze schedule-wise for Leonard. The Clippers will likely be one of contenders to win the Western Conference finals and play in the NBA Finals — which, if they go the full seven games, are currently scheduled to end on July 22.

The Tokyo Olympics begin July 23, and the U.S. plays its first game against France on July 25.

"If I feel up to it and feel ready to go around that time, then I'm going to play," Leonard said.

USA Basketball is expected to finalize a player pool of about 60 names — many of them holdovers from the 44 announced as members of the pool last year, a group that includes Leonard — in the not-too-distant future. From there, a team will be picked and the current plan is to bring that group to Las Vegas around July 1 to begin training camp and a series of exhibition games against other national teams.

The U.S. staff, including managing director Jerry Colangelo, men's national team director Sean Ford, Popovich and assistant coaches Lloyd Pierce, Steve Kerr and Jay Wright have been talking for months about plans and contingencies — including which players they might want to wait for even if their NBA clubs go deep into the playoffs.

Many top NBA players said entering the 2019-20 season that they were considering Olympic plans, before the pandemic struck and the Olympics were pushed back a year.

"A lot of people were in for 2020, but just the pandemic pretty much killed everything," Leonard said. ***(AP)***

# Cora's COVID message: Stay safe, your team needs you

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP
Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora walks to the dugout before first inning of a spring training baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles Thursday, March 4, 2021, in Sarasota, Fla.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora isn't your usual Florida tourist.

"It's an off-day here tomorrow. Hopefully it rains and it's cold," he said on Sunday as he prepared for the team to take its first full break of spring training.

It's not that Cora doesn't like sunshine. He would just prefer that his players stay home with their families and not risk any potential COVID-19 exposure.

With bad weather, he said, "There's no temptation of going to the beach or going to an outdoor restaurant or whatever. So I'll be praying for that."

The actual forecast for Fort Myers, where Boston trains: mostly sunny, high in the low 70s, almost zero chance of rain.

What started in the early days of the pandemic as a health concern has also become a competitive issue for baseball teams, who have been reminded over the past year that a player on the COVID-19 list can't help them win games.

"You protect yourself for the right reason, to protect your family. That's No. 1," Cora said. "But now we're getting to the baseball side of it. We've done an outstanding job until today. But we've got to keep doing it the right way, because you don't want to be that guy that's going to miss two weeks because you weren't responsible."

Boston lost pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez for the entire season last year when his COVID-19 infection resulted in damage to his heart muscles. This season, they placed Kevin Plawecki and Franchy Cordero on the COVID-19 related injured list upon their arrival, but they have avoided an outbreak like the one that sent eight pitchers away from the Astros facility on Friday (it was not clear whether any had tested positive, or spent time in close contact with someone who had).

In the NFL, the Denver Broncos had to play a game without an actual quarterback. On Sunday, Philadelphia 76ers Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons were pulled from the NBA All-Star Game after going to a barber who tested positive. Golfers and tennis players have had to withdraw from tournaments after testing positive. And the Los Angeles Dodgers pulled Justin Turner from the World Series clincher after his test came back positive mid-game.

"You guys saw what happened in Houston," Cora said on Sunday. "It's never good that you test positive. But it's getting to that point that we better to really take care of each other and keep doing what the things that we're doing because it's getting closer to the season."

Baseball's spring training manual permits players and other team members to venture out for baseball activities and medical care, along with grocery shopping, takeout food pickup and outdoor physical activity.

Banned: indoor restaurants, bars, fitness centers, casinos, bowling alleys, pool halls, dance clubs or any indoor gathering of 10 or more people.

"If you're a baseball player you understand that there's a lot of obstacles, a lot of nonos," Cora said. "You've just got to be smart about it."

And while Cora hopes his players will get a chance to relax, he won't be able to do so until he receives his nightly email with the results of everyone's COVID test.

"The best part of camp is when you get that email," he said.

Also Sunday, Cora said that shortstop Xander Bogaerts is getting antsy about returning to full workouts after shutting down on Monday because of a sore shoulder. Bogaerts will take batting practice on Tuesday and DH over the weekend. He has been able to take grounders, but the team is limiting his throwing to protect his shoulder.

"He told me, 'April first, I've got to face this lefty throwing 95, 96.' And I'm not going to be ready," Cora said. "I said, 'You'll be ready. There's plenty of time for that.'"

Also Sunday:

Cora confirmed that the team has brought in utilityman Danny Santana as a non-roster invitee. Santana has a .260 average with 42 homers and 188 RBIs in seven seasons with Minnesota, Texas and Atlanta.

According to the Twitter account Red Sox Notes, in the previous four seasons only three players have hit 15 or more homers while playing every position other than pitcher and catcher: Marwin Gonzalez, Enrique Hernandez and Santana. All three are now with the Red Sox.

"Very versatile, athletic," Cora said. "I think I'm repeating myself with the signings of position players."

Plawecki was reinstated from the COVID-19 injured list. He was placed on IL on Feb. 17, the day pitchers and catchers reported to spring training.

## Nats release Jeffress for unspecified 'personnel reasons'

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Jeremy Jeffress was released by the Washington Nationals on Sunday for what general manager Mike Rizzo called unspecified "personnel reasons," less than two weeks after the reliever agreed to terms on a minor league deal.

The team sent out a six-word tweet announcing the move.

Rizzo released a statement about the right-hander via a team spokesman that did not offer an explanation, saying only: "He was released for personnel reasons."

The Washington Post first reported that the Nationals were parting ways with Jeffress, who was expected to add to a back end of a Nationals bullpen that already included Brad Hand, Daniel Hudson, Will Harris and Tanner Rainey.

The 33-year-old Jeffress was taken by Milwaukee in the first round pick of the 2006 amateur draft and has pitched for five teams over 11 years in the majors. He was an NL All-Star in 2018 for the Brewers.

Last season, Jeffress went 4-1 with a 1.54 ERA and eight saves in 10 chances for the Chicago Cubs.

More than a decade ago, Jeffress was suspended twice for violating the minor league drug treatment and prevention program. He has said he used marijuana to manage a severe case of anxiety and he was diagnosed with juvenile epilepsy in 2013.

# Indians' Ramirez, Reyes isolated after COVID-19 violations

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—For the third time in less than a year, the Cleveland Indians are having to isolate players because they broke COVID-19 protocols.

Third baseman José Ramírez and slugger Franmil Reyes are being kept away from their teammates at spring training in Arizona after they reported to the team that they went out to dinner in violation of team and Major League Baseball regulations.

Manager Terry Francona said Sunday that the two players were sent to their temporary homes as the Indians await word from the league as to when they can rejoin the team.

Francona said Reyes, who had a virus-related misstep last season, and Ramirez went out to dinner on Friday following an exhibition game in Mesa against the Chicago Cubs.

They reported to the team's complex on Saturday and were immediately sent home. They did not have contact with any other players or team personnel.

"We're pretty fortunate here," Francona said on a Zoom call. "We have some medical people who are right on top of things and they came right to me and they said: 'Look, this is what we're doing. We're informing the league.' The players themselves actually self-reported that they had made a mistake.

"So we told them: 'This is not our rules. These are the rules that the players' association and Major League Baseball came up with. We have to enforce them.'"

Francona said he hoped to have more information about the situation later. He spoken to both players, and they they understood they could have put others in jeopardy.

"They were both upfront and honest with us about what happened," Francona said. "We're not trying to put guys in the penalty box. We try to talk to guys almost every day. 'Hey, this is gonna happen if — it doesn't matter if you agree with it or not. These are the protocols that are in place and you have to live by it.'"

This the second time Reyes has broken coronavirus protocols.

When spring training resumed last year after being stopped due to the pandemic, Reyes was forced to quarantine after the team learned via a social media posting that he attended a July 4 party while wearing a mask.

A month later, the Indians placed pitchers Mike Clevinger and Zach Plesac on the restricted list after they broke protocols by going out to dinner while the team was in Chicago. Clevinger, who was traded a few weeks later to San Diego, initially didn't disclose he had been out with Plesac.

Francona understands that players may be fatigued by the COVID-19 guidelines, but they're in place to protect their safety.

"I do get it. I have it (fatigue) too," he said. "Everybody wants to get rid of your mask and it'd be nice to go sit in a restaurant. Those aren't the conditions we're playing under. I also know those guys are young and it's not normal to be cooped up.

"It doesn't have to just be baseball. It's everybody. It's life. But these are the rules we're playing under and the more we follow them, the better chance it gives us to be a complete baseball team. Because right now, we've lost a couple guys for two, three, four days. That doesn't help."

Since they've had at least three known violations, Francona was asked if the club is more vigilant than others teams in monitoring their players.

"Every team, I don't know if they follow it quite as diligently," he said. "They may not. But we do. I think we're fortunate that our medical people are that diligent. I don't think it's a fact that our players are not good kids or good guys. I think we're fortunate there too. Like I said, they self reported. They said they messed up.

"It's not for me to be judge and jury for other teams. I know how we're doing it here and I think we're comfortable doing that. And I think it's the best way to keep these guys safe. And it's the rules, so that's why we do it," he said.

# Shane Alvarez rises to the top

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shane Alvarez redeemed himself and placed first in the second leg of the Expert division for the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race last Feb. 28 at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

Alvarez rose to the top in the second leg of the series, placing first in both heats to earn him 50 points bringing his overall score to 50.

Alverick Alvarez followed closely behind Shane Alvarez in the second leg of the series by placing third in both heats to gain 40 points.

Completing the Top 3 was Angelito Hernaez with 37 points. Hernaez lagged behind in the first heat placing sixth place to earn him 15 points. However, Hernaez gained momentum in the second heat to place second and gained 22 points.

In the Veterans division, Dave Celis, who holds the No. 1 spot in the division, started off slow and placed third in the first heat to gain 20 points. Celis redeemed himself in the second heat and placed first to gain 25 points. He completed the second leg of the race with a total of 45 points.

Cuki Alvarez tailed Celis with an overall score of 45 for the second leg of the series. Alvarez held a steady second place for both heats to earn the No. 2 spot in Round 2.

Rounding up the Top 3 was Charles Cepeda who finished with a score of 43. Cepeda took first in the first heat to gain 25 points but later lost the lead when he placed fourth in the second heat earning him 18 points.

Kier Agda topped the Novice division, placing first in both heats of the second leg of the series to gain 50 points.

Henry Camacho Jr. took the No. 2 spot in Series Two for placing second in both heats to garner 44 points.

Completing the Top 3 was Arthur Jebehn who completed the second round with a score 38. Jebehn started off slow in the first heat and placed fourth earning him 18 points. He later picked up the pace in the second heat and placed third to gain 20 points.

In the Big Boy ATV division, Christian Camacho kept the lead throughout both heats of the second round to gain him 50 points.

Ton Basa placed second in the first heat to gain 22 points, but he did not return for the second heat.

JOSEPH CHIN

Shane Alvarez topped the Expert division in the second leg of Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race last Feb. 28 at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

## OL'ACES

*From Page 20*

to be a tough match against Ol'Aces in the second half of the match. Rollers took the lead in the final four minutes of the second half behind Reid Teregeyo's drive-in layup to bring the team to within 42-41.

However, in the last two minutes of the game, Padayao was able get a hold of the ball and held a strong grip to score the winning basket securing their 43-42 win.

Ol'Aces put up strong defenses in the final moments of the game in order to keep their win.

Rollers' Darren Pangelinan carried the team with his 12 markers with help from Reid Teregeyo and Jayart Palmes who contributed 11 points apiece.

**Ol'Aces 43 –** Padayao 19, Aton 10, Laniyo 4, Fiden 3, Kapwich 3, Wabol 2, Lucas 2.

**Kagman Rollers 42 –** Pangelinan 12, Palmes 11, Teregeyo 11, Mamis 4, Satur 2, Hocog 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 30-29, 43-42.

## CNMI

*From Page 20*

physical and mental health:

**What does the phrase "Choose To Challenge" mean to you?**

"For me it means, having the courage and commitment to achieve goals, whether it's my personal goals, goals for the organization I belonged with, or goals for my family. There will be challenges along the way as we reach for these goals, but if we remain determined, positive, and be proactive, then we can survive these hurdles toward realizing our goals," said Tolentino.

**How do you hope to use your position on the board to "choose to challenge?" What barriers are the most pressing for you, which you'll be looking to implement?**

"NMBA is proud to say that among the local sports federations in the Northern Mariana Islands, we are one of the few groups that have more female officers. As the NMBA president, I wish to encourage women, particularly our youth, to choose to get more involved in spreading the NMBA program throughout the CNMI."

"There will always be people/players who will join NMBA competitions or events, but consistently finding people who will organize them or help NMBA work on these events has always been a challenge. Our approach on this challenge is to reach out to Badminton Oceania/Badminton World Federation and see how can we train enough people to work on the administration, technical, and coaching sides of badminton," said Tolentino.

Find out more about International Women's Day and tell us how you will #ChooseToChallenge on Facebook. ***(Badminton Oceania)***

## NMI

*From Page 20*

The event will feature a 10K face-to-face race that will start and end at the American Memorial Park by the Hyatt Regency Saipan with runners heading to Beach Road for the turnaround point across Ladera Building. The race will have both individual and team divisions. Four women runners can enter the team category and the Top 3 times will be added up to give a composite time.

Sapong added that the race will be totally run by women, too. All officials and timekeepers will be women, with men serving only in a support capacity.

"We also see this as a great opportunity to promote our island culture. We are inviting women to run in a *mwáár*, and are planning a special surprise for the start of the race… featuring a woman, of course. We also hope to have women performing traditional dances along the course," the NMA official said.

Saipan Community School cross country team coach Taylor Nowicki is encouraging women in the community to join the March 20 event,

"It is important to show girls how amazing our bodies are and what we, as females are capable of. It's very empowering to see so many girls come together in such a healthy and positive way," Nowicki said.

Meanwhile, a virtual race (5K or 10K) is also being offered along with the women's run. Men are encouraged to come out and support the women in their lives in the virtual event and they can complete the distance of their choice wherever they like during the entire month of March, including on a treadmill. The virtual event also includes a team category.

"Team events are great," said Edward Dela Cruz Jr. "We are working hard to build a running community in the CNMI that starts in schools but doesn't end there. This event will be an important venue for doing just that."

NMA has partnered with Race Roster, an online registration site used by many federations in Oceania Athletics, to enhance its presence online and make it easier for CNMI residents to participate. Registration is open online at: https://raceroster.com/events/2021/45389/nmi-10km-womens-run. Entry fees are $10 for women and $15 for men. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

LET'S VACCINATE, CNMI!
• Registration EXPANDED to persons 50 years and older on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota!
• Continued registration Phase 1a & 1b!
• Register ONLINE at www.vaccinatecnmi.com
• Register over the PHONE by calling (670) 682-SHOT/(7468)
CNMI COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE 3/8/2021-3/15/2021
Vaccination varies by location and availability. We are currently not accommodating vaccine preference requests. LAST CALL: is the time the last vaccine will be given to a checked in patient.
SAIPAN
Monday 3/8 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/15
Tuesday 3/9 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/16
Wednesday 3/10 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/17
Thursday 3/11 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/18
Friday 3/12 - 8am (open) to 2:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/19
Monday 3/15 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/22
LOCATION: CHCC - MCATS
AVAILABLE VACCINE: PFIZER
PARKING: Parking lot is located across the CHCC campus on Navy Hill Road.
TINIAN
Friday 3/12 - 9am (open) to 3pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
Monday 3/15 - 9am (open) to 3pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated 2/14 & 2/15
LOCATION: Tinian Health Center
AVAILABLE VACCINE: MODERNA
ROTA
Saturday 3/13 - 8am to 1pm
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
Monday 3/15 - 8am to 1pm
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/15
LOCATION: Rota Health Center
AVAILABLE VACCINE: MODERNA
What to Bring
1. Vaccination ID (Located in confirmation email)
2. Government Issued ID (e.g, driver's license or passport)
3. Employee ID or latest paystub (Phase 1b only)
4. Insurance Card (If applicable)
5. DOSE 2 recipients must also bring their Vaccination Record Card (please make your appointment date even if you misplace your card)
VACCINATE CNMI CALL CENTER: (670) 682-SHOT / Mon-Sat 8am-8pm & Sunday 8am-1:30pm
VACCINATE CNMI WEBSITE: vaccinatecnmi.com
@cnmichcc

**Team LeBron wins NBA All-Star Game, 170-150**

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Saipan Tribune
# Sports

**Cora's COVID message: Stay safe, your team needs you**

**PAGE 18**

# Ol'Aces survives Kagman Rollers

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ol'Aces nosed out Kagman Rollers in the first match of the 17U division for the 2021 NMI Rollers Basketball Association Spring Madness last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces eked out a 43-42 win over Kagman Rollers in the first match of the scheduled matches last Saturday.

Craig Padayao powered the Ol'Aces to victory after firing 19 points. Airson Aton also finished in double digits by adding 10 markers.

With Padayao on the reins, the Ol'Aces were able to build a 30-29 lead by the end of the second half. Padayao delivered 11 of his 19 points in the first half with help from Aton who contributed 8 points. Justin Laniyo also added 4 points to bring his team to the lead with help from Spencer Wabol and Matthew Lucas who added 2 markers a piece.

Kagman Rollers proved

**See OL'ACES on Page 19**

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Kagman Rollers' Darren Pangelinan maneuvers past Ol'Aces guards on the way to the basket in last Sunday's matchup of the 2021 NMI Rollers Basketball Association Spring Madness at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

## NMI Women's Run set for March 20

Northern Marianas Athletics is celebrating International Women's Day and Women's History Month by hosting the NMI Women's Run on March 20.

It will be the first time the islands will have a running event for women only and NMA general secretary Robin Sapong believes this year's IWD hashtag is perfect for ushering in a new race in the CNMI. March 8 was International Women's Day and this year's theme was "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 World."

"The IWD #ChooseToChallenge has so many meanings but at the heart of it, I believe, is the opportunity to challenge ourselves to meet the United Nations Development Program's goal of achieving equality in a COVID-19 world," Sapong said.

**See NMI on Page 19**

PONCIANO COROTAN
Two female runners head to the turnaround point during a local event late last month in Marpi. Women are encouraged to join the NMI Women's Run on March 20.

## CNMI #ChooseToChallenge with highest percentage of female board representatives

Yesterday, March 8, was International Women's Day, with this year's theme being #ChooseToChallenge. The movement aims to bring awareness to our individual thoughts, actions and ability to choose, challenge, and call out gender bias and inequality.

**Pangilinan**

**Villaflor**

**Kim**

**Tolentino**

Northern Marianas Badminton Association is paving the way for gender equality in the U.S. territory as they confirmed board members which included over 50% representation by women—unlike most of the competing national sporting associations.

Moreover, all four members recently attended and completed Badminton Oceania's online umpire training course as they plan to contribute to the future of badminton events in the country—including the Pacific Mini Games which are scheduled to take place in June 2022.

The Pacific Games have already made a legacy of its own already as among the newly elected board members is 21-year-old Janelle Pangilinan. She found badminton through a summer program in 2011, delivered by NMBA in partnership with Badminton Oceania, and competed in the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games—where the NMBA team made headlines for their ability to compete internationally despite not having a coach, battling with cyclones, and relying on YouTube tutorials to improve their techniques and tactics.

Additionally, Shirley Kim has upheld her presence as treasurer since 2009, alongside Cristy Villaflor who brought her love for badminton from the Philippines where she started playing in the early 2000s.

Celebrating her third appointment as NMBA president, Merlie Tolentino has been part of the executive board for the past 12 years. Tolentino expressed her excitement for the future of badminton in their country, following the appointments which she knows will be driven by passion for the sport and ability to boost people's

**See CNMI on Page 19**